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INSIDER

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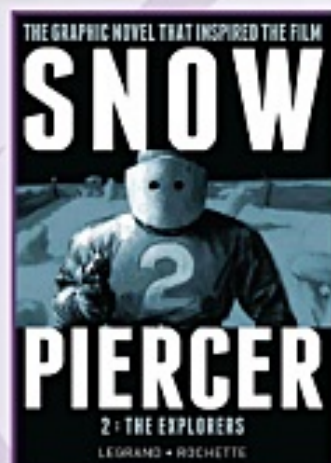


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"The Force is strong with this one."
—Darth Vader, *Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope*, 1977

It's hard to believe now, but *Star Wars* seemed pretty much over back in 1987. George Lucas had finished making the trilogy, toy stores were devoid of *Star Wars* goodies unless you looked in the bargain bins, and the last episode of *Ewoks* had aired on TV. The most significant event of the year was the opening of Star Tours at Disneyland in early January.

But that year also saw the debut of this magazine, under the less *Star Wars*-specific name of *The Lucasfilm Fan Club Magazine*! In an environment that seemed to indicate that *Star Wars* films were a distant prospect at best, a new magazine kept that flame alive, while reporting on other Lucasfilm projects such as *Indiana Jones* and *The Last Crusade*, *Willow*, and even *Tucker: The Man and His Dream*. Younger readers would be shocked at that world, where the Internet was years away from being able to fuel rumor and speculation about the next *Star Wars* project (that's what the Internet is for, right?) and the wealth of books and comics we know and take for granted hadn't yet appeared on store shelves.

It was a very different world, and, thankfully, as I write this, we are in a later world where there is so much *Star Wars* that you really do need a magazine and the Internet to keep track of it all!

This copy of *Star Wars Insider* marks the 150-issue journey from the dark times when *Star Wars* was in hiatus to the present day—when the future of *Star Wars* has never been brighter!

Jonathan Wilkins

Jonathan Wilkins, Editor

STAR WARS

JULY 2014

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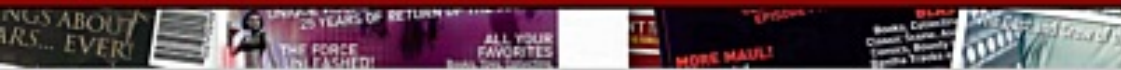
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SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR UK READERS!

You may have noticed that we've changed the numbering for this issue. Don't worry, you haven't missed anything! We've made the leap through hyperspace to bring you in line with our numbering for the US edition.



DOCKING BAY

THIS ISSUE....



PAGE 14
150
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Insider looks back on
150 issues worth of great
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See page 42 or visit: titanmagazines.com/insider

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NEWSSTAND EDITION 1



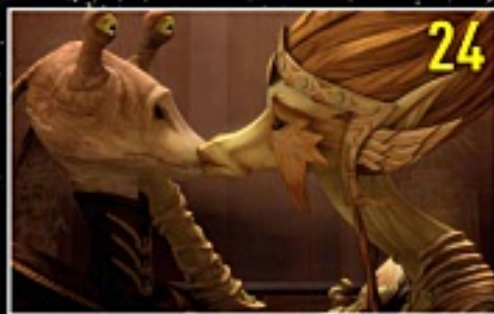
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LAUNCH PAD

ALL THE COOL NEWS FROM THE STAR WARS UNIVERSE

EPISODE VII CAST REVEALED!

NEW FACES JOIN ORIGINAL CAST MEMBERS FOR THE NEW STAR WARS MOVIE!

TUESDAY, APRIL
29, 2014

The cast of the new *Star Wars* movie has been introduced to the world! Director J.J. Abrams says, "We are so excited to finally share the cast of *Star Wars: Episode VII*. It is both thrilling and surreal to watch the beloved original cast and these brilliant new performers come together to bring this world to life, once again. We start shooting in a couple of weeks, and everyone is doing their best to make the fans proud."

OSCAR ISAAC

Actor and musician known for roles in *Inside Llewyn Davis* (2014) and *Drive* (2011).
Role: Unknown

JOHN BOYEGA

Best known for *Attack the Block* (2011) and *24: Live Another Day* (2014).
Role: Unknown

ADAM DRIVER

Can be seen in hit series *Girls*, and 2014's *Inside Llewyn Davis* and *Tracks*.
Role: Unknown

LAWRENCE KASDAN

Co-writer

ANDY SERKIS

Known for his role as Gollum in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy (2001-2003), Caesar in *Rise and Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* (2011, 2014) and Captain Haddock in *The Adventures of Tintin* (2011).
Role: Unknown

ANTHONY DANIELS

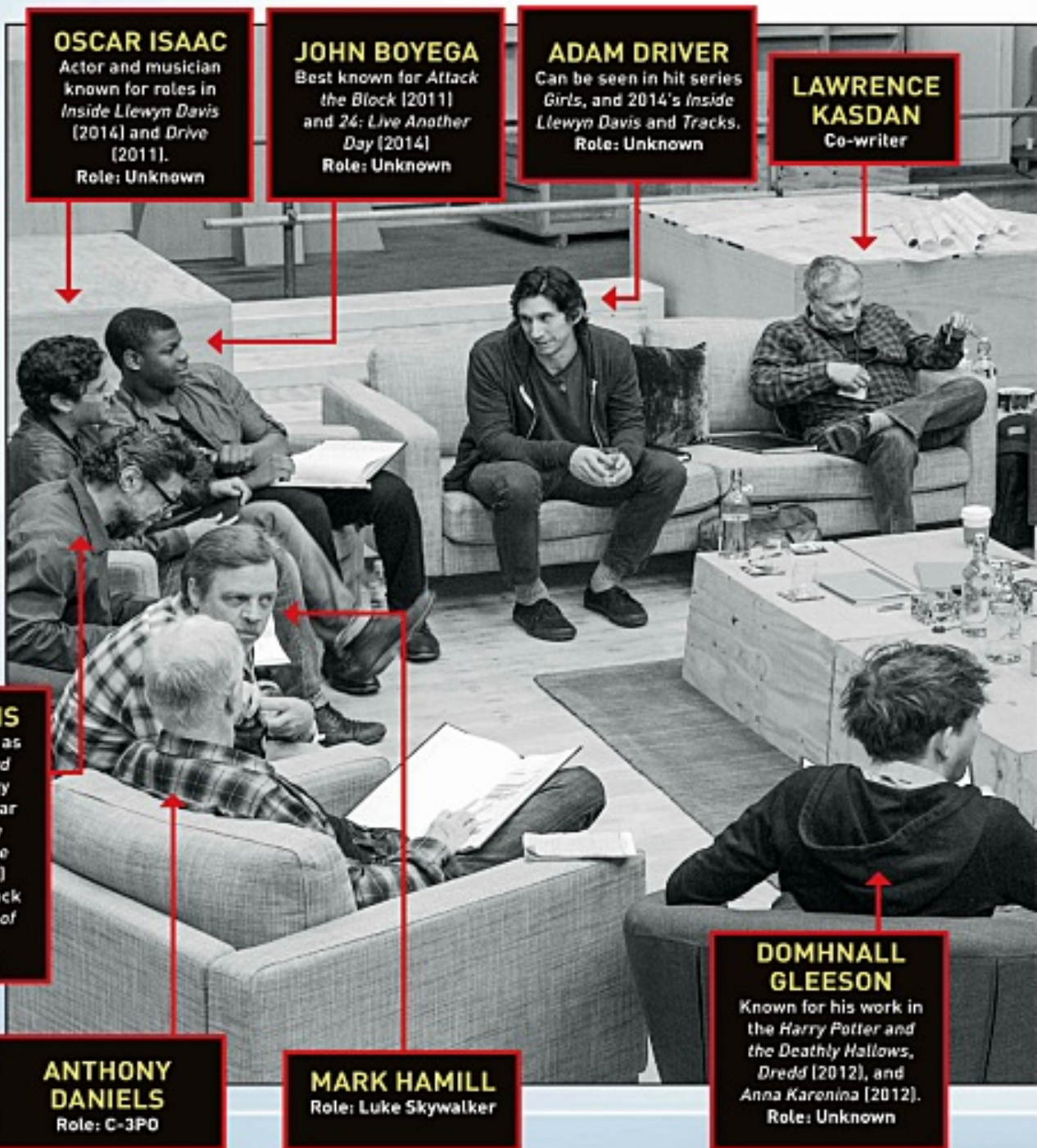
Role: C-3PO

MARK HAMILL

Role: Luke Skywalker

DOMHNALL GLEESON

Known for his work in the *Harry Potter* and the *Deathly Hallows*, *Dredd* (2012), and *Anna Karenina* (2012).
Role: Unknown



(NOT AT READ-THROUGH)

MAX VON SYDOW

Can be seen as Ming the Merciless in *Flash Gordon* (1980), along with roles in *The Exorcist* (1973), *Hannah and Her Sisters* (1986), *Minority Report* (2002), and *Shutter Island* (2009), among many others.

Role: Unknown

KENNY BAKER

Role: R2-D2

JJ ABRAMS

Director, producer,
co-writer

HARRISON FORD

Role: Han Solo

DAISY RIDLEY

Known for her roles on British TV series *Casualty* (2013) and *Silent Witness* (2014).

Role: Unknown

CARRIE FISHER

Role: Leia

PETER MAYHEW

Role: Chewbacca

KATHLEEN KENNEDY

Producer

BRYAN BURK

Producer

MESSAGES FROM THE CAST ON TWITTER!

@HamillHimself:

UK table read—I was knocked out by the diverse & extraordinarily talented new cast members. WOW they're good! The saga is in superb hands.

@JBoyega

Honoured to join this amazing universe and thank you for all the support. May the Force be with you. #SWVII

@carrieffisher

May the Chapter VII be with you... always. Or at least until 2015. I love you.... you know.

@Bandyserkis

Thx for all the notes of good wishes and support! Looking forward to exploring that galaxy far, far, away! #SWVII

A NEW DAWN!

STAR WARS STORIES OPENS UP TO
A WEALTH OF NEW POSSIBILITIES.

Disney Publishing Worldwide is proud to announce their first step into that larger world, beginning with Del Rey Books. The publishing program will feature new adult fiction novels set in the beloved galaxy far, far away, and will be closely connected to the cinematic entertainment currently in development at Lucasfilm.

From the very first tie-in novel, an adaptation of the first movie that was released by Del Rey in 1976, to the recently published *Star Wars: Kenobi*, *Star Wars* novels have consistently appeared on the *New York Times* Bestseller list. With over 75 million copies sold worldwide, these books have captured the imaginations and creativity of authors who have enriched the *Star Wars* experience for fans around the globe.

Going forward, Lucasfilm has begun mapping out the narrative future of *Star Wars* storytelling that will appear on film and television and in other media so that all projects will benefit from real-time collaboration and alignment. The future *Star Wars* novels from Disney Publishing Worldwide and Del Rey Books will now be part of the official *Star Wars* canon as reflected in upcoming TV and movie projects.

"With the establishment of the Lucasfilm Story Group and our even greater focus on unified storytelling, we expect our entire publishing program to be stronger and more meaningful than ever before," says Jeanne Mosure, senior vice president and group publisher, Disney Publishing Worldwide. "We're extremely excited to kick off this new strategy with Del Rey Books."

The first novel to benefit from this deeper collaboration is *Star Wars: A New Dawn*, by bestselling author John Jackson Miller. Set prior to the events of the forthcoming animated series *Star Wars Rebels*, this novel tells the story of how two of the lead characters of the series, Kanan Jarrus and Hera Syndulla, came to cross paths. To tell this important backstory, Miller worked with series executive producers Dave Filoni, Simon Kinberg, and Greg Weisman, who together ensured this tale will be part of the *Star Wars* canon of storytelling going forward. It is scheduled for hardcover and eBook release on September 2, 2014.

"We're extremely proud of the hundreds of amazing *Star Wars* books we've published at Del Rey," said Scott Shannon, SVP, publisher, Del Rey and Digital Content. "And now we're excited to finally be able to call our upcoming novels true canon—a single, cohesive *Star Wars* storyline—all while keeping the amazing backlist of *Star Wars* Legends content in print."

LIVING LEGENDS!

In years past, the storylines that would appear in print and on screen were developed separately, resulting in an "Expanded Universe" that sometimes differed in ways large and small from the filmmaker's "canon." These rich stories provide a treasure trove of characters to fall in love with—and deep worlds to explore and will live on in both physical and digital editions, newly-branded as *Star Wars* Legends.

EXPANDED

For more information, like the Del Rey *Star Wars* Books Facebook page at [Facebook.com/StarWarsBooks](https://www.facebook.com/StarWarsBooks).

UNIVERSE

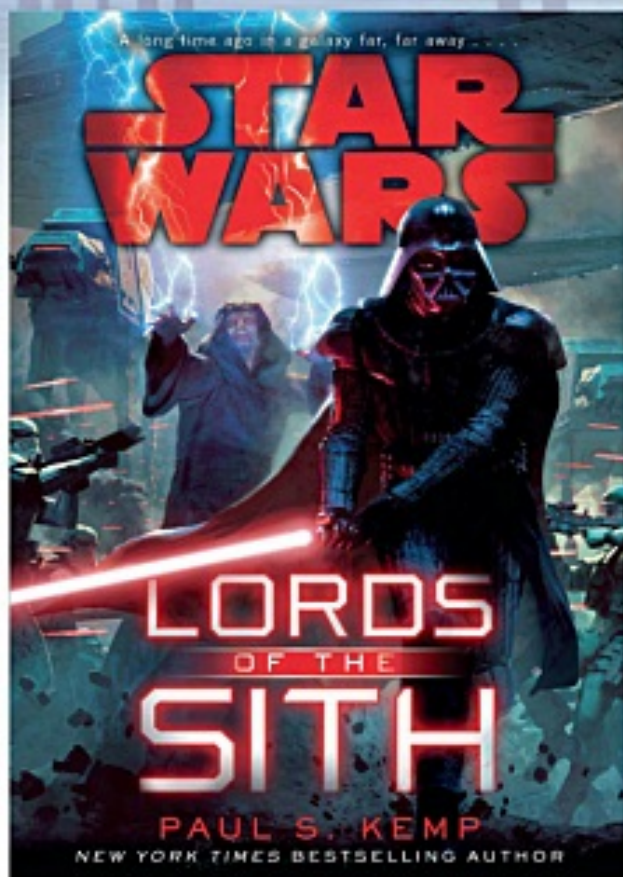
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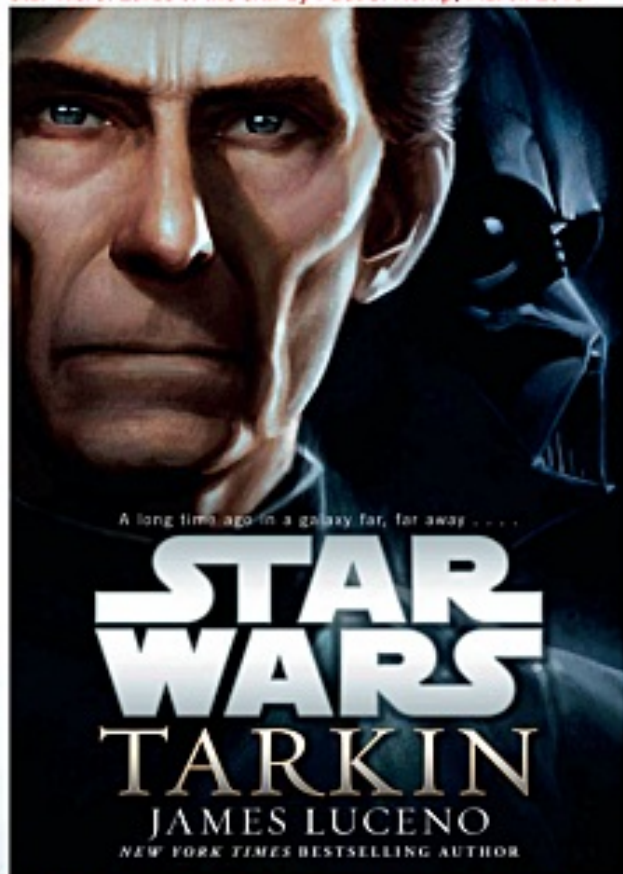
Star Wars: A New Dawn by John Jackson Miller, September 9, 2014



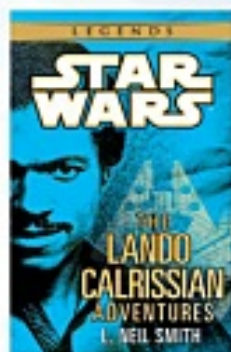
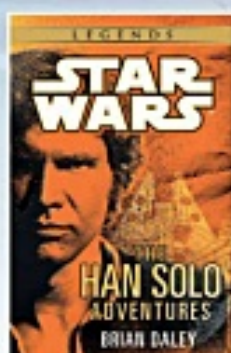
Star Wars: Heir to the Jedi by Kevin Hearne, January 2015



Star Wars: Lords of the Sith by Paul S. Kemp, March 2015



Star Wars: Tarkin by James Luceno, November 4, 2014



LAUNCH PAD



THE ORIGINAL TRILOGY RETOLD



Disney Publishing Worldwide has announced four new books based on the original *Star Wars* trilogy. The classic trilogy will come to life like never before through adaptations by bestselling children's authors Tom Angleberger, Tony DiTerlizzi, Adam Gidwitz, and R.J. Palacio. Each of these celebrated authors will bring their contemporary, unique voice to the galaxy far, far away, bridging the multi-arc storyline in anticipation of the release of *Star Wars*: Episode VII in December 2015.

The run starts, in October 2014, with *The Adventures of Luke Skywalker, Jedi Knight*, a picture book written by New York Times bestselling author Tony DiTerlizzi (*The Spiderwick Chronicles*), and illustrated with classic concept art by Ralph McQuarrie, created for the original *Star Wars* films.

Additional titles to follow include new retellings of *Star Wars: A New Hope* by R.J. Palacio (*Wonder*), *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* by Adam Gidwitz (*A Tale Dark and Grimm*) and *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* by Tom Angleberger (*Origami Yoda* series), all three of which will be illustrated by award-winning *Star Wars* concept artist Iain McCaig.

SPECIAL
REPORT!

STAR WARS IDENTITIES IN PARIS: WHAT FORCES SHAPE YOU?

By Tim Veekhoven

Photos by Steven Jaspers and Tim Veekhoven



Star Wars: Identities has found a new exhibition home in La Cité du Cinéma in Paris, France. This official Lucasfilm exhibition (produced by X3 Productions) focuses on the identities of characters by developing three major themes: the characters' origins; the influences that shape them; and the personal choices they make in their lives.

In addition to offering an impressive collection of 200 objects from the Lucasfilm Archives, *Star Wars Identities* is highly interactive. You'll receive an audio device and a plastic bracelet. This bracelet will allow you to create your own *Star Wars* character by making decisions at 10 scanning stations using the same components that are being explored at the expo. You will have to choose your species, what planet you're from, your best abilities, your profession, and much more. The interactive aspect of *Identities* is really fun and you'll also be able to receive your character by email.





Clockwise, from left: A Jabba the Hutt maquette; Chewbacca, Han Solo, Princess Leia, and Lando Calrissian costumes; podrace competitors Daid Belt and Mers Guo; the show explores the choices and how they shape the *Star Wars* characters; Leia's iconic bikini from *Return of the Jedi*; our intrepid reporter poses with the original Ponda Baba mask as used in *A New Hope*.



Star Wars Identities displays a great deal of genuine props, costumes, art, and other objects from the *Star Wars* movies. There is also a lot of original artwork on display, such as production paintings by Ralph McQuarrie, storyboards and conceptual sketches from people such as costume designer John Mollo and concept artist Rob Cobb. The largest prop you'll see is Anakin's full-scale podrace, but don't forget to check out smaller items, such as the Jedi comlink. Highlights include EV-9D9, 8D8, the mask of Ponda Baba, the models of several podrace pilots and the Sith mural from Palpatine's office in *Revenge of the Sith*. The area containing multiple ships and vehicles used in the Galactic Civil War will certainly be a favorite of many fans. In the same room

you can also see costumes of heroes such as Chewbacca, Han Solo, Princess Leia, Luke Skywalker, and Lando Calrissian. The final hall personifies the eternal battle between good and evil, with costumes of several Jedi and Sith Lords on display, including Darth Vader's.

The exposition has its souvenir shop, which sells apparel, key chains, books, toys, lanyards, and much more. A beautiful catalog is available, as are the six gorgeous posters specially designed for the expo.

The *Star Wars: Identities* motif truly turns it into a unique experience. The expo delivers a solid mix between iconic *Star Wars* objects (Boba Fett, R2-D2) and props that will be recognized only by diehard fans (the Meson Telescope, the

helmet of Rebel Alliance pilot Dorovio Bold), while the interactivity is something that fans of all ages will enjoy; the audio excerpts are interesting and have been based on modern scientific research.

The exhibition will remain in Paris until the end of June, when it leaves for another destination in Europe. Be sure to book your tickets in advance—the interactivity allows only a limited number of visitors to enter the expo simultaneously. 📺

EXPANDED

For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.starwarsidentities.com

UNIVERSE



C-3PO'S COMMUNICATION STATION!

WELCOME TO *STAR WARS INSIDER*'S ALL-NEW LETTERS PAGE! WRITE IN WITH AN ENTERTAINING LETTER, AND, IF WE PRINT IT, WE'LL SEND YOU A FANTASTIC SIGNED *STAR WARS* PHOTO FROM OUR FRIENDS AT OFFICIAL PIX!

JEDI GENERATIONS!

Star Trek has *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, but *Star Wars* is generational, too. The storyline, of course, follows various generations of Skywalkers and Solos. But even more importantly, *Star Wars* itself is something that is shared by different generations of the same family.

My father, Vincent, who passed away last year, enjoyed science fiction his entire life. Being born in 1929, he grew up on the *Buck Rogers* and *Flash Gordon* Saturday matinee movies that inspired George Lucas to create *Star Wars*. My Dad and I saw every *Star Wars* movie together. One of my favorite memories is how he and my brother Nick arranged for me to see "Darth Vader" during a 1978 mall tour. I still have the photo of me with Vader, and his "autograph."

My wife, Maria Jose, and our son Nicholas Jose also love *Star Wars*. Nicky was a bit too young to enjoy the prequels in theaters (he was born in 2002), but he now plays with my original toys from the 1970s. There is no greater playset than Kenner's Death Star! The new trilogy, starting in 2015, will arrive for our son at almost the same age I was when the original films were released in the 1970s and 1980s. It is great fun to be able to share the excitement of Episode VII as a family.



A photo of John's 1978 Dad's video tour experience!



A 2010 photograph of me, my wife, Maria Jose, and our son Nicholas Jose with our friend Don Madsen (former *Star Wars* Fan Club president and *Star Wars Insider* founder) and Ashley Eckstein (Ashoka Tane) at Wizard World!

Hopefully, the fun and ideals of *Star Wars* will endure even longer, so that one day our son can enjoy *Star Wars* with his children, and continue our family tradition of loving science fiction that began with my father long ago, in a galaxy not so far away.

—John Tenuto, Illinois, USA
Thanks for sending such a great letter, John. We agree—it's great how *Star Wars* spans all of the generations.

R2 GOES BACK TO SCHOOL!

I make replica props for fun using foam floor tiles (as they are cheap and easy to work with). I have always wanted a life-size R2-D2, so I decided to build myself one. It is just a static display piece, although it does have wheels so I can push him around, and there are some lights inside and a little MP3 player just for fun. Because he is made out of foam he can take a fair bit of knocking without getting damaged. He has been on several trips to a local school and it is almost a yearly thing now. The kids all get a blast out of being able to come up and touch him and hug him, and the teachers are often even more excited to see him. Here is a picture of my youngest daughter, Hannah, and one of her school friends with R2 in the school library. —Jamie Young, by email



Jamie's amazing foam R2-D2 visits Hannah and her friends at school!

We wish R2-D2 could have visited us at school, Jamie! We reckon he would make a good teacher!

STAR WARS TRIUMPHS!

I have been a loyal reader of the *Insider* for many years now and I would like to share my *Star Wars* story. For many years now, I have been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome and it was very hard for me to make any friends during high school. It seemed at times that I didn't know what I was going to do with the rest of my life because I was so unsocial. The only thing that kept my interest, other than schoolwork, was the *Star Wars* saga. All six *Star Wars* movies taught me to not shy away from a challenge and that there is always good in everyone whether they're a young farmboy, or a broken father who chose the wrong path in life.

Because of my love for *Star Wars*, I was able to go out and socialize with others while battling Asperger's Syndrome, which wasn't an easy fight. Now I am in college, I've acquired a number of new friends, and have completely defeated the disorder thanks to the courage that I had gotten from watching the *Star Wars* movies and realizing that I had to conquer this "Death Star" once and for all. I hope this letter teaches people how to cope with a disorder like Asperger's Syndrome, and use an outlet like *Star Wars* to get the courage to defeat it and to determine their own destinies in life. —Joseph Golden, Philadelphia, USA
Thanks for sending such an inspiring letter, Joseph. We all wish you well at college!

WE WANT YOUR LETTERS! SEND THEM TO:

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TWO AWESOME COMICS...
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OBI-WAN KENOBI & MORE!



A SNEAKY LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES
OF THE COOLEST TV SHOW OF 2014,
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INSIDER LOOKS BACK

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY ISSUES OF *STAR WARS INSIDER* MAKES FOR A PRETTY BIG STACK—AND A WEALTH OF NEWS THAT HAS MADE *STAR WARS* FANS GASP, CHEER, AND BEGIN THE KIND OF GOOD-NATURED DEBATES THAT MAKE FANDOM SO MUCH FUN. TO MARK OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL ISSUE, WE DECIDED TO COUNT DOWN THE 10 BIGGEST *STAR WARS* MILESTONES FROM THE MAGAZINE'S LIFETIME. WORDS: JASON FRY

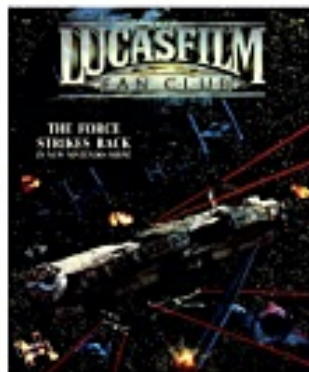
It's dizzying to look back and remember *Star Wars* before some of these events—when the saga consisted of three films, for instance, or before the galaxy far, far away dominated toy aisles, the convention circuit, and cultural conversations, or before the explosion of creativity on the “small screens” of TV and videogame consoles. Come with us and revisit these 10 milestones from our 150-issue run.

1

HEIR TO THE EMPIRE IS RELEASED (MAY 1991)

After *Return of the Jedi* brought the classic trilogy to a close in 1983, *Star Wars* began a slow withdrawal that would last nearly a decade. Fans got two Ewok TV movies and the Saturday-morning cartoon adventures *Ewoks* and *Droids*, but by 1986, references to *Star Wars* were more likely to be about a U.S. military program seeking to defend against nuclear weapons than the adventures of Jedi, rebels, and droids. Exhausted by the titanic effort to get the three technically complex, hugely ambitious movies made, George Lucas turned to other projects. Lucas Licensing decided it was time to give *Star Wars* a rest. For the most part, *Star Wars* receded from fans' awareness.

Still, as the decade came to a close, *Star Wars* began to stir again. In 1989, Lucas Licensing president Howard Roffman began to explore the possibility of restarting *Star Wars* adult fiction, with the help of Lucy Wilson, publishing director. Lucas was skeptical about demand for new *Star Wars* novels, but agreed to the plan and helped set a few ground rules: The books would be set after *Return of the Jedi*, in case Lucas decided to tell the tale of the young Anakin Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi one day, and no major characters could be killed off. Most publishers passed, dismissing *Star Wars* as old news. But Bantam Books was



intrigued—and in a serendipitous bit of timing, Bantam's Lou Aronica had recently approached Lucasfilm to propose a three-book trilogy set after Episode VI. Bantam also had an author in mind: Timothy Zahn.

In November 1989, Zahn began work, crafting a lengthy outline for a trilogy of novels. A year later, he turned in the finished manuscript, and in May 1991 *Heir to the*

Empire arrived in bookstores—with Zahn, Bantam, and Lucasfilm wondering if anybody would care.

The answer was an emphatic yes. *Heir to the Empire* took the top spot on the *New York Times* bestseller list, displacing John Grisham's *The Firm*. Fans were thrilled by their first glimpse of the galactic capital Coruscant, embraced new characters Mara Jade and Grand Admiral Thrawn, and cheered the birth of Han Solo and Princess Leia's twins, Jacen and Jaina. Zahn's saga spanned the galaxy, bringing *Star Wars* back with an appropriately epic storyline, and he also paid close attention to the details, choosing to begin each book with an Imperial Star Destroyer in homage to the classic trilogy.

Heir's first run of 70,000 copies was gone within two weeks, with some bookstores reportedly selling the title right out of the box. *Star Wars* was back, and for good.





THE 10 BIGGEST STAR WARS MILESTONES IN OUR (MAGAZINE'S) LIFETIME

2

DARK EMPIRE KICKS OFF THE DARK HORSE COMICS ERA (DECEMBER 1991)



Zahn's novel revealed that the world was eager for more adventures in the galaxy far, far away. But the initial rollout of Expanded Universe novels was deliberately paced, with no other new adult fiction hitting shelves until Zahn's sequel *Dark Force Rising* arrived in the summer of 1992. Fortunately, fans had another return to celebrate: As 1991 came to an end, Dark Horse Comics released its first issue of the six-part series *Dark Empire*.

A moody post-*Jedi* tale, *Dark Empire* had originally been proposed as a late-1980s release from Marvel Comics, the earlier publisher of a nine-year run of alternately grand and goofy *Star Wars* monthly comics. It wound up as a Dark Horse project instead, written by Tom Veitch and illustrated by Cam Kennedy.

Dark Empire had some stunning surprises: The Emperor returned from the dead (as did Boba Fett), and, while trying to understand his father's fall, Luke Skywalker was ensnared by the dark side of the Force. *Dark Empire* proved a worthy sequel to the classic trilogy, exploring the Skywalker family legacy in ways that followed logically from *Return of the Jedi*. Its publication kicked off an almost quarter-century in which Dark Horse told hundreds of entertaining tales set in every era of *Star Wars* history and proved an exemplary custodian of the saga's comic-book past, lovingly gathering and reprinting stories that had come before.

TALES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK... CREATURE CREATORS #102!

Being based in England means that many members of the *Star Wars* cast and crew are readily accessible for face-to-face interviews. The greatest of these was a visit to the house of Stuart and Kathleen (Kay) Freeborn. Despite both being in their 90s at the time of the interview, they looked after me with tea, biscuits and tales of not just *Star Wars*, but also Peter Sellers, Alexander Korda, Charlie Chaplin, and so many more. An amazing afternoon spent with a couple very much missed. — Jonathan Wilkins





3

DARTH VADER CONFRONTS THE ENERGIZER BUNNY (1994)



Wait a minute! A 30-second commercial makes our list? Absolutely. *Star Wars* is now a frequent sight in Super Bowl ads and a cultural touchstone for several generations, but it wasn't that way in the summer of 1994. With *Star Wars* just beginning to emerge from its self-imposed brand hibernation, the sight of Darth Vader in Cloud City's carbon-freeze chamber was a shock—and the image of the Sith Lord unscrewing the hilt of his lightsaber to find generic batteries inside was a pop-culture earthquake.

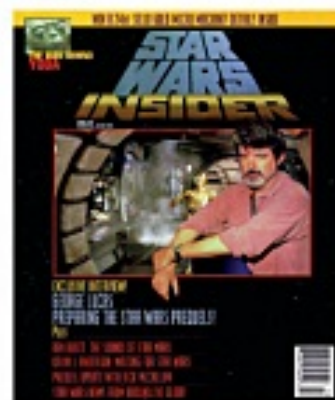
In the pre-YouTube era, fans camped out in front of the TV waiting to see this ad again and again, while mixing iconic *Star Wars* characters with Earthbound pop culture sparked debate on the era's bare-bones Internet message boards. Today we barely bat an eye at advertisers' loving Cantina re-creations or adorable tykes using the Force to control car doors, but it all began with a pink bunny and a sputtering lightsaber.

TALES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK... "HELLO, MR. HAMILL?" #143

A chance meeting at Celebration VI, led to a fantastic phone interview with Mark Hamill. He was every bit the hero that he plays on the big screen. He enthused about his appreciation of the fans, told brilliantly funny stories—helpfully punctuating some of them with a casual "I haven't told that one before!"—and even did his "Joker" voice. His kindest act might have been not laughing when I earnestly told him what a true legend he is. Well, he is Luke Skywalker...—JW

4

HASBRO UNVEILS "THE POWER OF THE FORCE" TOY LINE (JULY 1995)



For the children of the 1970s, few things were more iconic than Kenner's line of *Star Wars* action figures. The 3½ inch figures—according to legend, the product of a team member spreading his thumb and forefinger apart as a suggested size—revolutionized the toy industry. By the time the line ended in 1985, more than 100 figures had been produced, along with classic takes on vehicles.



In the summer of 1995, Hasbro reintroduced the line with nine figures from *A New Hope*. The toys benefited from advances in sculpting, painting, and tooling, though they were startlingly muscular compared with their predecessors of a generation ago. The new line was an immediate hit, returning *Star Wars* to toy-store aisles. In the 20 years since then, Hasbro has produced more than 1,000 figures drawn from the six movies of the *Star Wars* saga, TV shows, videogames, and the Expanded Universe. Hasbro's vehicles have improved dramatically as well. The high point of the toy line? It has to be 2008's stunningly detailed 2.5-foot Millennium Falcon.





5

THE SPECIAL EDITIONS HIT THEATERS (JANUARY-MARCH 1997)

THE STAR WARS TRILOGY

SPECIAL EDITION



In 1997, with excitement building for the forthcoming Prequel Trilogy, the Original Trilogy returned to theaters with prints that had been lovingly cleaned and restored—and changed. *A New Hope* gained a legendary deleted scene of Jabba the Hutt confronting Han Solo in Mos Eisley, with a new digital Jabba matted over the human actor who'd played the gangster back in 1976. [Boba Fett had a cameo too, though he hadn't even been invented in 1976]. The climactic space battle above the Death Star was enhanced with digital effects not available the first time around, and Tatooine was populated with new droids, vehicles and creatures. The other two movies also changed in ways big and small: Beautiful digital vistas replaced blank hallways in Cloud City in *The Empire Strikes Back*, while *Return of the Jedi* received a new dance number in Jabba's palace and a celebratory galactic travelogue that included a first on-screen look at Coruscant.

Not all of Lucas's changes were embraced. For *A New Hope*, Han's confrontation with Greedo was changed so the bounty hunter shoots first, a decision that spawned thousands of fan-made T-shirts defiantly insisting that "Han Shot First." But audiences flocked to see the movies in theaters again, and fans now understood that Lucas saw not just his films' visual effects, but also their stories as works in progress. The 2004 DVD and 2011 Blu-ray releases saw more changes made as Lucas continued to tinker with his creations.



TALES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK... RADIO DAYS #127/128

The Star Wars National Public Radio drama is one of the hidden gems in the franchise, so when the chance came to do an anniversary feature on Brian Daley's stunning adaptations of the original trilogy, I jumped at the chance. Writer Michael Kogge's industriously researched feature meant that hiring him for an ongoing series about the authors of the Expanded Universe was a must, but the highlight was receiving a heartwarming message of appreciation from Daley's widow, Lucia.—JW

TALES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK... PEOPLE POWER #1 ONWARDS

Everyone who works on this magazine—and has ever worked on the magazine—is a fan of the Star Wars saga. It's because of their tireless dedication that the magazine has reached #150 issues. Here's to 150 more!—JW





6

FANS GATHER FOR CELEBRATION I (APRIL 1999)

With *The Phantom Menace* just weeks away from movie screens, more than 30,000 fans converged on Denver, Colorado, for Star Wars Celebration, a three-day extravaganza that marked Lucasfilm's first official fan gathering since 1987. Veterans of the event remember its torrential rains—but the wet weather did nothing to dampen spirits, as visitors gaped at Anakin's podracer, cheered behind-the-scenes footage from Episode I, and heard from participating actors.

Celebration I was followed by regular events in Indianapolis, Los Angeles, and Orlando, Florida, as well as two Celebration Europes and Celebration Japan. Fans now look forward to the chance to gather as a community every year or two, with costumers, budding actors, and writers, and kids of all ages cheering new announcements and nostalgic looks back. The next Celebration is scheduled for 2015 in Anaheim, California, prior to the release of Episode VII.



10 COLLECTIBLE COVERS!



#110

The brilliance of the character design of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* characters means that it's easy to make the characters look cool and compelling. This image of Yoda—flanked by two clone troopers—remains a firm favorite. As an added bonus, we were delighted that Tom Kane, who voiced the character in the show, made this his Facebook avatar!



#114

A thrilling first look at the massively multiplayer online game, *Star Wars: The Old Republic*! Though this issue reached stores in December 2009, the game wasn't released until late 2011.



#117

This stunning cover came courtesy of the team at Lucas Animation. A trip to the animation facility afforded the *Insider* editorial team the chance to see the cover being meticulously created before our very eyes!



7

THE PREQUEL ERA BEGINS (MAY 1999)

The era that a generation of *Star Wars* fans had only dreamed of became a reality on May 19, 1999, when *The Phantom Menace* opened worldwide, smashing box-office records for the biggest opening day and week. Audiences met Anakin Skywalker as a young boy on Tatooine with a love of flying and spectacular skill with the Force. They met a young Obi-Wan Kenobi, the clearly not-to-be-trusted Palpatine, and R2-D2, who saved the heroes from certain death as he'd done so many times in the past [which was actually the saga's future].

Fans had new things to discuss, too: Anakin and C-3PO arrived with intriguing origins no one had guessed at, and Lucas's story was rich with new lore about the workings of the Force. While reviews and reactions weren't universally positive—poor Jar Jar Binks received the bulk of the critical brickbats—the new film and its two sequels fulfilled their mission of recasting *Star Wars* as the saga of the Skywalker family, with Anakin falling into darkness and becoming Darth Vader, then being redeemed by the love and compassion of his son. *Star Wars* fans learned about the once-legendary Clone Wars, witnessed the origins of the Empire and its feared

Death Star, watched Palpatine's rise to power, and even met a young Boba Fett, whose origins also came as an enormous surprise.

They also had new heroes to cheer and villains to boo. They saw Padmé Amidala grow from Naboo's queen to its senator, Anakin's secret wife, and an early founder of what would one day become the Rebel Alliance. They were intrigued by the maverick Jedi Qui-Gon Jinn and the grim, no-nonsense Mace Windu. They celebrated the downfall of the tattooed Sith warrior Darth Maul, the sneering cyborg General Grievous, and a gang of cowardly Neimoidian barons led by Nute Gunray. And they thrilled to some of the prequel trilogy's show-stopping sequences: Episode I's podrace through the canyon's of Tatooine, Episode II's duel between Count Dooku and a digital Yoda, and Episode III's long-awaited confrontation between Anakin and Obi-Wan on the fiery planet Mustafar. By the time *Revenge of the Sith* concluded the saga in 2005, the prequels had taken their place alongside the classic trilogy, creating a rich multi-generational tale of the fall of the Galactic Republic and the conflict between Jedi and their ancient enemies, the Sith. The saga was now complete... or so we all thought.



#118

Often, it's the simplest ideas that work best. This stark image from *Star Wars: The Force Unleashed II* for our comic store exclusive showcases the digital Sam Witwer in a pose that simply screams *Star Wars*!



#118

Just for the Celebration V convention exclusive, we changed the title of the magazine! This kind of cover is always fun to do, and was one of five *Empire*-themed covers we created for this issue!



#127

This iconic image of Han Solo proved a huge hit with readers! Who can resist the galaxy's coolest scoundrel? Such was the popularity that we chose it for the first exclusive *Insider* T-shirt mailed out to subscribers!





8

KNIGHTS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC IS RELEASED (JULY 2003)

Videogames have long been a staple of *Star Wars*. But 2003's *Knights of the Old Republic*, developed by BioWare and first released for the Xbox, broke new ground in several important respects. The game brought *Star Wars* into a new time period, set nearly 4,000 years before *A New Hope* when a Sith armada had brought the Republic and its Jedi defenders to the brink of ruin. It let players choose between the light side of the Force and the dark side, with the game's outcome changing based on decisions made. It introduced a host of characters who would soon be embraced by fans: the Jedi exile who is the game's main character, the Sith Lord Darth Malak, the Mandalorian merc Canderous Ordo, and the sarcastic assassin droid HK-47.

But most of all, *Knights of the Old Republic* offered riveting storytelling, making terrific use of gameplay and interactivity, and culminating with a truly startling revelation, one we're not going to give away even now. Writer Drew Karpyshyn would go on to pen several *Star Wars* novels, and more than a decade after its release, *Knights of the Old Republic* is still hailed as a classic videogame and one of the highlights of the Expanded Universe.



9

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS



10 COLLECTIBLE COVERS!



#140

An exclusive interview with Dave Filoni about the stunning conclusion to Season Five of *The Clone Wars* led to this Ahsoka cover. Despite initial skepticism from some quarters, she has become a fan favorite character.



#143

We had a blast when Warwick Davis visited the *Insider* offices to guest edit this issue. In his honor, the Celebration Europe issue bore the iconic image of Warwick as Wicket.



#144

Our comic store exclusive gives us licence to play around with the cover design in a way that we wouldn't with newsstand covers. This cover was created to tie-in with the fantastic comic series based on George Lucas's rough draft of *The Star Wars*.

BEGINS (AUGUST 2008)

Audiences got their first glimpse of the Clone Wars in 2002's *Attack of the Clones*, with the Battle of Geonosis marking the beginning of the galaxy-spanning conflict. Three years later, *Revenge of the Sith* showed us the Outer Rim sieges that ended the war and led to the Republic's transformation into the Empire. But most of the conflict happened between movies—a critical period during which Anakin rose from a talented but raw Padawan to a Jedi Knight capable of defeating Count Dooku, and the Jedi became generals leading clone soldiers, while Chancellor Palpatine plotted to take over the galaxy.

The new *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* TV show revealed much of all that and more, as Lucas worked closely with supervising director Dave Filoni on five seasons (plus bonus episodes) that dramatically expanded fans' understanding of the Force, Order 66, and the history of the Mandalorians. The series opened with a bang—a movie introducing Ahsoka Tano, a spunky young Togruta appointed to be Anakin's Padawan. At first, fans weren't quite sure about Ahsoka, or the heretofore-unknown fact that Anakin had trained an apprentice. But their relationship deepened Anakin's story, making his fall seem even more

tragic. Ahsoka became one of the saga's best-loved characters, and at its best the show offered big-hearted storytelling in classic *Star Wars* style.

Ahsoka wasn't alone in becoming a fan favorite. The bounty hunter Cad Bane, the clone trooper Rex, the pirate Hondo Ohnaka, Mandalore's Duchess Satine, and the dark Jedi Asajj Ventress (who'd begun as a prequel concept design and became a well-known villain in comics and the micro-series) played significant roles in the series. Prequel veterans Liam Neeson and Pernilla August returned to voice Qui-Gon Jinn and Shmi Skywalker, and, in a startling revelation, Darth Maul turned out to have survived his defeat in *The Phantom Menace*, re-emerging as a cyborg warlord bent on revenge against those who'd wronged him.

Lucas's involvement with *The Clone Wars* also led to a new sense of *Star Wars*



continuity, with stories he'd shaped and helped tell on-screen making up the primary *Star Wars* canon, supported and enriched by characters, worlds and ideas drawn from the Expanded Universe. In late 2014, that canon will continue with *Star Wars Rebels*, produced by Filoni's creative team and set a few years before *A New Hope*.

10

LUCASFILM UNVEILS THE SEQUEL TRILOGY (OCTOBER 2012)

October 30, 2012, was a jaw-dropping day in *Star Wars* history: Lucasfilm and Disney announced that Disney was acquiring Lucasfilm for north of \$4 billion in stock and cash. That was earth-shaking news in itself, but there was more—Disney planned to continue the *Star Wars* saga with new films, beginning with Episode VII in 2015. Episode VII would be directed by J. J. Abrams, and written by Abrams, Michael Arndt, and *Star Wars* veteran Lawrence Kasdan. (George Lucas himself is a creative consultant.)

With all the rumors flying, we're not going to delve any deeper into what may or may not be in store—you'll get official word soon enough in these pages. But what a way to kick off a new era for *Star Wars*! The saga will continue, and between the movies, *Star Wars Rebels*, theme parks, novels and comics, *Celebrations* and surprises yet to be revealed, we have no doubt that in another 150 issues' time we'll have a wealth of new milestones to look back on and celebrate. Here's to the future!



EXPANDED

Follow Jason Fry on Twitter @jasoncfr

UNIVERSE



#148

Another comic store exclusive, designed to get audiences ready for *Star Wars Rebels*! This is the first of many cool *Rebels* covers—both newsstand and comic store—to come!

CELEBRATION!





A LONG TIME AGO....

DAN MADSEN IS THE FOUNDER AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE OFFICIAL *STAR WARS* FAN CLUB, AND THE FOUNDER AND FORMER PUBLISHER OF *STAR WARS INSIDER* MAGAZINE FROM 1987 TO 2000. HE ALSO PRODUCED THE VERY FIRST *STAR WARS* CELEBRATION IN DENVER, COLORADO, IN 1999.

Star Wars Insider: How did the *Insider* begin?

Dan Madsen: I ran the official *Star Trek* fan club for Paramount studios. That's when I started in the whole fan club business, producing newsletters that eventually turned into magazines.

I was doing *Star Trek* for Gene Rodenberry and Paramount, when my name came up with Lucasfilm about the Official *Star Wars* Fan Club. They had decided to close it down because they said that they didn't know when George Lucas was ever going to get back to making new *Star Wars* films and they didn't have the people to run it any longer.

I had sent them a letter along with some samples of what I'd been doing, and I explained that I'm a massive *Star Wars* fan.

Up to that point it was all run in-house. I got a call from Howard Roffman, then head of Lucas Licensing, and he invited me out to Skywalker Ranch. We discussed how we would re-launch it again, but this time we would focus on Lucasfilm in general, not just *Star Wars*. So many new projects were coming up from Lucasfilm, like *Willow* and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

The very first issue was called the *Lucasfilm Fan Club Magazine*, and it was full-color and glossy, but it was very thin; more like a newsletter. It was celebrating the tenth anniversary of *Star Wars* and we had See-Threepio and Artoo-Detoo on the cover.

How did you get the magazine fully established?

It just started building over the years and we advertised in a variety of places. The thing that really took it to the point where it became a full-fledged magazine, similar to what we see today, were the *Star Wars* prequels. Once they were announced, it felt like time to change to being *Star Wars*, because we wanted to focus on *Star Wars*—that's what's happening now. And they agreed, so we came up with all sorts of names





for the magazine, and I eventually offered the name *Insider*. I thought: *Star Wars Insider* seems like a perfect name for the magazine now, because that's what it is; it's for insiders. It's a magazine that people who love Star Wars will really appreciate, and we want to give them the inside track on things. That's how it was born, and as the prequels started filming, it just took off something fierce!

What was the response from Star Wars fans like?

Fans were very excited about getting the magazine because sometimes we'd have the latest news—and there was no Internet back then!

We had to work with Lucasfilm to determine what news would go to the big newspapers and the magazines, and what news we'd get

for the *Insider*. So they kind of had a two-tier system. Major announcements, like who was going to play Anakin Skywalker, would go out to the mass

"THERE WAS A SENSE OF PRIDE FOR ME TO GET FEEDBACK FROM PEOPLE AND HEAR HOW MUCH THEY LOVED THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE."

media outlets, but some of the secondary cast members or more detailed information about what planets we might visit, would be given to the *Insider*.

What's been your favorite part of the *Star Wars Insider* experience?
If I'm being selfish about it, it was

getting a cameo in the *The Phantom Menace*! Getting the opportunity to spend two weeks on the set of Episode I, interviewing everybody, covering it for the magazine and then being given a cameo in the movie, was probably the greatest thrill. To this day people say, "I just saw you on TV!"

Anthony Daniels—who was the first person I interviewed for the magazine—became a really good friend of mine over the course of all of this, and worked with us on the very first *Star Wars Celebration* in Colorado, but also, he became a columnist for the *Insider*.

From the magazine standpoint, I would have to say, just every time we put out an issue. There was such a sense of pride for me to get feedback from people and hear how much they loved it. I would go to Kentucky where we used to print the magazine for the press checks and I'd sit there overnight literally as the pages came through. I followed it through every phase of production, from the moment we sat down and decided what was going to go in the magazine to design, to editing, to writing, to interviewing—there wasn't a piece of it that I didn't have my hand in.

I think one of the greatest things I have now is to see that the magazine is still alive and flourishing. Even now, I still walk into a Barnes & Noble and pick up a copy of the *Star Wars Insider* and look at it with a sense of pride! 🙌

EXPANDED

Follow Dan Madsen on twitter
@THEDanMadsen

UNIVERSE



From left: The first Lucasfilm Fan Club Magazine from fall 1987, and issue #23, the first to be titled *Star Wars Insider*, published fall, 1994.

Below, from left: Madsen and friend Anthony Daniels; in costume on the Episode I set with Kenny Baker and R2-D2.



1 AND COUNTING EXPANDED

Compiled by Pablo Hidalgo

Back in *Star Wars Insider* #139, we broke down the first 104 episodes produced for *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, using production numbers to keep track of installments produced (as opposed to, say, episodes aired). This method of organizing *Clone Wars* episodes results in unique groupings, as the Production Seasons of 26 episodes each differ from the broadcast seasons, which are sometimes 22, 20 and, most recently, 13 episodes long.

Now that *Star Wars: The Clone Wars: The Lost Missions* have triumphantly debuted on Netflix, *Star Wars Insider* revisits its listing, picking up on the 105th episode produced in the series, the first in Production Season 5.

105: "EMINENCE"

Production Number: 501

Broadcast Number: 102 (January 19, 2013;
Season 5, Episode 14)

"One vision can have many interpretations."

Director: Kyle Dunlevy

Written by: Chris Collins

After barely escaping their encounter with the Jedi and the pirates alive, Savage Opress and Darth Maul are found by Death Watch. Both parties forge an alliance when they realize they have a common enemy in the Jedi general Obi-Wan Kenobi.

Guest-starring: Jon Favreau as Pre Vizsla, Sam Witwer as Darth Maul, Clancy Brown as Savage Opress, and Katee Sackhoff as Bo-Katan.

106: "SHADES OF REASON"



Production Number: 502

Broadcast Number: 103 (January 26, 2013;
Season 5, Episode 15)

"Alliances can stall true intentions."

Director: Bosco Ng

Written by: Chris Collins

With the backing of the Hutts and an army of the galaxy's most vicious criminals—including the Death Watch, Black Sun and the Pykes—Pre Vizsla and Darth Maul lead an attack on the planet of Mandalore. Conquest of Mandalore strains the tenuous alliance between the Sith and Death Watch.

Guest-starring: Jon Favreau as Pre Vizsla, Sam Witwer as Darth Maul, and Clancy Brown as Savage Opress.

107: "THE LAWLESS"



Production Number: 503

Broadcast Number: 104 (February 2, 2013;
Season 5, Episode 16)

"Morality separates heroes from villains."

Director: Brian Kallin O'Connell

Written by: Chris Collins

Using Duchess Satine as bait, the vengeful Darth Maul lures Obi-Wan into a trap. Drunk with power, Maul declares himself the true Sith Lord, a claim that will not go unanswered.

Guest-starring: Jon Favreau as Pre Vizsla, Sam Witwer as Darth Maul, Clancy Brown as Savage Opress, and Katee Sackhoff as Bo-Katan.

This is the last episode Ian Abercrombie recorded as Chancellor Palpatine.

108: "SECRET WEAPONS"



Production Number: 504

Broadcast Number: 98 (December 1, 2012;
Season 5, Episode 10)

"Humility is the only defense against humiliation."

Director: Danny Keller

Written by: Brent Friedman

R2-D2 is part of a team of Republic droids chosen for an important mission led by the diminutive Colonel Gascon to obtain an encryption module from a Separatist dreadnought. The droids must overcome numerous challenging obstacles to succeed in this crucial assignment.

Although produced after the Maul arc, the D-Squad arc aired first in Season Five.



109: "A SUNNY DAY IN THE VOID"



Production Number: 505
Broadcast Number: 99 (December 8, 2012;
 Season 5, Episode 11)

**"When all seems hopeless, a true hero
 gives hope."**

Director: Kyle Dunlevy
Written by: Brent Friedman

After a comet damages their shuttle, R2-D2, Colonel Gascon and the other droids crash on a desolate planet where they must make their way across a bewildering expanse of emptiness to carry out their mission.

110: "MISSING IN ACTION"



Production Number: 506
Broadcast Number: 100 (January 5, 2013;
 Season 5, Episode 12)

**"A soldier's most powerful weapon
 is courage."**

Director: Steward Lee
Written by: Brent Friedman

After finding a nearly vacant town, Colonel Gascon and his droid squad meet a subservient dishwasher, Gregor, who is unmistakably a clone with a serious case of amnesia. Gascon is determined to free the clone from servitude, while the droids must commandeer a Separatist shuttle.

The 100th episode broadcast, this was in fact the 110th episode produced.

111: "POINT OF NO RETURN"



Production Number: 507
Broadcast Number: 101 (January 12, 2013;
 Season 5, Episode 13)

**"You must trust in others or success
 is impossible."**

Director: Bosco Ng
Written by: Brent Friedman

All is not right aboard a seemingly abandoned Jedi cruiser. Colonel Gascon and his droid team learn the ship is a death trap pointed towards an important Republic conference, and must work against time to stop this catastrophe-in-the-making.

112: "SABOTAGE"

Production Number: 508

Broadcast Number: 105 (February 9, 2013;
Season 5, Episode 17)

"Sometimes even the smallest doubt can
shake the greatest belief."

Director: Brian Kline O'Connell

Written by: Charles Murray

Anakin and Ahsoka are called back from the frontlines to investigate a deadly explosion at the Jedi Temple. Clues surface that a Jedi might have been responsible for the blast.

113: "THE JEDI WHO KNEW TOO MUCH"



Production Number: 509

Broadcast Number: 106 (February 16, 2013;
Season 5, Episode 18)

"Courage begins by trusting oneself."

Director: Danny Keller

Written by: Charles Murray

When Ahsoka confronts the prime suspect in the Jedi Temple bombing, she suddenly finds herself accused of an unthinkable crime. Anakin argues Ahsoka's innocence, but the young Padawan finds herself running out of alternatives.

114: "TO CATCH A JEDI"



Production Number: 510

Broadcast Number: 107 (February 23, 2013;
Season 5, Episode 19)

"Never become desperate enough to trust
the untrustworthy."

Director: Kyle Dunlevy

Written by: Charles Murray

Ahsoka is on the run from the Republic in the deepest levels of the Coruscant underworld. Her search for answers leads to a surprising alliance, as she needs all the help she can get to unravel the conspiracy and stay ahead of the law.

All four episodes in this arc (112—115) have
titles taken from Alfred Hitchcock movies.



115: "THE WRONG JEDI"



Production Number: 511

Broadcast Number: 108 (March 2, 2013;
Season 5, Episode 20)

"Never give up, no matter how dark
things seem."

Director: Dave Filoni

Written by: Charles Murray

With Ahsoka captured and on trial for murders she didn't commit, she is expelled from the Jedi Order. She is now being prosecuted in the High Courts by Admiral Tarkin, while Anakin hunts for the real murderer.

This was the last episode that aired on Cartoon
Network prior to the end of the series.

116: "THE UNKNOWN"



Production Number: 512

Broadcast Number: 109 (March 7, 2014;
Season 6, Episode 1)

"The truth about yourself is the hardest
to accept."

Director: Bosco Ng

Written by: Katie Lucas

Clone trooper Tup succumbs to a mysterious mental illness that results in the shocking death of a Jedi Master. Unable to account for his murderous actions, Tup is sedated and sent back to Kamino for examination. Anakin and ARC Trooper Fives accompany Tup, but their return trip is ambushed by Separatists.



117: "CONSPIRACY"



Production Number: 513
Broadcast Number: 110 (March 7, 2014;
 Season 6, Episode 2)

"The wise benefit from a second opinion."

Director: Brian Katin O'Connell
Written by: Katie Lucas

In the sterile laboratories of Kamino, the ailing clone trooper Tup and his friend Fives are quarantined for examination following Tup's shocking murder of a Jedi Master. With the help of medical droid AZI-3, Fives is determined to get to the bottom of Tup's condition and uncovers a secret buried deep within the Republic cloning program.

118: "FUGITIVE"



Production Number: 514
Broadcast Number: 111 (March 7, 2014;
 Season 6, Episode 3)

"When in doubt, go to the source."

Director: Danny Keller
Written by: Katie Lucas

The body of clone trooper Tup is scheduled for transport to Coruscant, where the Supreme Chancellor's own doctors will closely examine it. Fives breaks protocol and defies orders to dig up answers, and discovers that there is an organic construct of unknown purpose hidden in the brains of all clone troopers.

119: "ORDERS"



Production Number: 515
Broadcast Number: 112 (March 7, 2014;
 Season 6, Episode 4)

"The popular belief isn't always the correct one."

Director: Danny Keller
Written by: Katie Lucas

Fives continues to push for answers regarding the mystery of the clone contamination and secures an audience with Supreme Chancellor Palpatine. But the situation collapses when Fives is accused of attacking the Chancellor, and he must flee deep into the Coruscant cityscape while pursued by fellow clone troopers.

120: "THE DISAPPEARED, PART 1"

Production Number: 516
Broadcast Number: 116 (March 7, 2014;
 Season 6, Episode 8)

"Without darkness there can be no light."

Director: Steward Lee
Written by: Jonathan Rinzler

The peaceful world of Bardotta and its mystic ways are threatened by an ancient prophecy, and its top spiritual leaders have vanished. Queen Julia of Bardotta calls for help from her most trusted friend in the Senate, Jar Jar Binks.

Recognizing the importance of Bardotta's spiritual balance, the Jedi Council sends Mace Windu to accompany Binks and investigate.

121: "THE DISAPPEARED, PART 2"

Production Number: 517
Broadcast Number: 117 (March 7, 2014;
 Season 6, Episode 9)

"Wisdom is born in fools as well as wise men."

Director: Bosco Ng
Written by: Jonathan Rinzler

Jar Jar Binks' beloved Queen Julia of the planet Bardotta has been abducted by the bloodthirsty Frangawl cult to fulfill a dark and ancient prophecy. Representative Binks and Jedi Master Windu must find the missing queen before the cult can rise in power.

122: "THE LOST ONE"

Production Number: 518
Broadcast Number: 118 (March 7, 2014;
 Season 6, Episode 10)

"What is lost is often found."

Director: Brian Kalin O'Connell
Written by: Christian Taylor

A Jedi mission finds a lightsaber belonging to the long-dead Master Silo-Dyas, prompting Yoda, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker to begin an investigation into his decade-old disappearance. This sparks Darth Sidious to order Darth Tyranus to clean up any loose ends that may lead the Jedi to discover the truth of the Sith conspiracy.

THE LOST MISSIONS CLOVIS SHUFFLE

When the production order list was published back in March 2013, there were three episodes— numbers 97 through 99—that out of necessity had abbreviated descriptions. These were the trilogy of episodes that dealt with the rise of Rush Clovis to the head of the Banking Clan. Produced during the Season Four production run, they were originally slated to air in Broadcast Season Five, but a late schedule change pushed them out of the Cartoon Network run. They debuted along with the rest of the Lost Missions episodes, and can now be more fully accounted for on this list.

97: "AN OLD FRIEND"

Production Number: 419
Broadcast Number: 113 (March 7, 2014;
 Season 6, Episode 5)

"To love is to trust. To trust is to believe."

Director: Brian Kalin O'Connell
Written by: Christian Taylor

While on Scipio to fund a mercy mission, Padmé Amidala is called upon by an old friend, Rush Clovis, to help uncover corruption in the Banking Clan. They must evade the bounty hunter Embo to escape the planet with the incriminating information.

98: "THE RISE OF CLOVIS"

Production Number: 420
Broadcast Number: 114 (March 7, 2014;
 Season 6, Episode 6)

"Jealousy is the path to chaos."

Director: Danny Keller
Written by: Christian Taylor

Back on Coruscant, Clovis—known traitor of the Republic—makes a dubious deal which puts him at the head of the Banking Clan. Anakin's increasing distrust and hatred of Clovis strains his relationship with Padmé to breaking point.

99: "CRISIS AT THE HEART"

Production Number: 421
Broadcast Number: 115 (March 7, 2014;
 Season 6, Episode 7)

"Deceit is the weapon of greed."

Director: Steward Lee
Written by: Christian Taylor

After making a deal with Count Dooku to resuscitate the ailing Banking Clan, Clovis finds himself as a pawn in Dooku's designs. Clovis has brought the war to Scipio, forcing the Republic to intervene.

123: "VOICES"



Production Number: 519
Broadcast Number: 119 (March 7, 2014;
 Season 6, Episode 11)

"Madness can sometimes be the path to truth."

Director: Danny Keller
Written by: Christian Taylor

Yoda is deeply unsettled when he hears a voice from beyond the grave: the voice of Qui-Gon Jinn. Knowing that it is impossible for a Jedi to retain his identity after death, the Jedi Council begins to worry that Yoda may be corrupted by the influence of the dark side. Determined to find answers, Yoda escapes the Jedi Temple to follow the disembodied voice.

Guest-starring: Liam Neeson as Qui-Gon Jinn.

124: "DESTINY"



Production Number: 520
Broadcast Number: 120 (March 7, 2014;
 Season 6, Episode 12)

"Death is just the beginning."

Director: Kyle Dunlevy
Written by: Christian Taylor

Letting the Force guide him, Yoda voyages into the heart of the galaxy to an ancient world that is one of the wellsprings of the Force and the source of midi-chlorians. Yoda undergoes difficult trials administered by the Five Priestesses, mysterious Force-wielders who hold the secret to immortality.

Guest-starring: Jaime King as the Priestesses.

125: "SACRIFICE"



Production Number: 521
Broadcast Number: 121 (March 7, 2014;
 Season 6, Episode 13)

"Facing all that you fear will free you from yourself."

Director: Steward Lee
Written by: Christian Taylor

After many grueling trials, Yoda next travels to the ancient Sith home world of Moraband, where he must face an ancient evil determined to rule the galaxy.

Guest-starring: Mark Hamill as Darth Bane and Jaime King as the Priestesses.



SAVING MR. BINKS

Jonathan Rinzler, author of "The Disappeared" on writing for *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*...

"In the beautiful conference room of the Main House on Skywalker Ranch, George Lucas told me, 'Your job is to rehabilitate Jar Jar Binks.' Amidst the general laughter of the writing group for Season Four, I felt sure this was a kind of hazing (these would be my first scripts for TV). But I also knew George was serious. As it turned out, because he 'knew where to find me,' we didn't get to plotting out my two shows until well after the writing group had dispersed.

"Months later, Dave Filoni, George, and I met to hash out what George described as 'a *Temple of Doom*' kind of story. People were disappearing on a mysterious planet and Jar Jar had a love interest: Queen Julia. In the version I was asked to write, the queen was brutally stabbed at the end. Bereft, Jar Jar said, 'Mesa no longer caren about lighten or darken. Mesa no longer caren about war. Dere issa sumbin stronger than all dat. Mesa haven it with Queenie—issa love....' This sentiment was the best I could do to rehabilitate him—but it was much nicer to have her survive, as was later decided. Perhaps one day Jar Jar and Queen Julia will live happily ever after..."

MY STAR WARS

LONDON-BASED ARTIST JAKE'S HIGHLY STYLIZED TAKE ON THE *STAR WARS* GALAXY HAS BEEN SEEN EVERYWHERE, FROM CELEBRATION LAMINATES TO A T-SHIRT DESIGN WORN BY GEORGE LUCAS! INTERVIEW BY MARK NEWBOLD



When did you first become aware of *Star Wars*?

It was in 1978 and I was given the first issue of *Star Wars Weekly*. There's a photo of me when I'm little coloring in the Howard Chaykin artwork with some felt tip pens. It's all a bit of a blur—it was a long time ago!—but I think there were a few issues of the comic published before I went to see the first film with my dad.



What was your reaction to seeing *Star Wars* for the first time?

It blew my tiny mind. My dad loved *Flash Gordon* when he was a kid, so we'd watched the old black-and-white serials together on the TV. But from the opening with the 20th Century Fox fanfare, I was just gripped. The hairs on the back of my neck still stand up when I see the Fox intro. I remember taking the only *Star Wars* figure I had, which was Artoo-Detoo. The whole movie was a total rush. And from that moment on, I don't remember not drawing *Star Wars*.



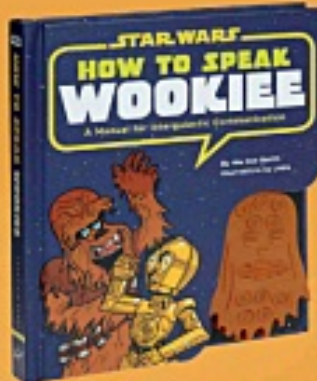
Do you have a favorite piece of Star Wars art?

It's probably Ralph McQuarrie's art. I had a magazine as a kid that featured some of the concept art and I always loved the Tusken Raiders painting. My favorite piece of Star Wars art that I've done is my *Return of the Jedi* piece that [waves fingers slowly as if doing a Jedi mind trick] is exactly what you're looking for....

Can you reveal something about yourself that will surprise Star Wars fans?
As well as the pictures, I had to do all the noises for *How To Speak Wookiee*. Chewbacca was busy!

Where did you draw your first Star Wars image?
On the living room floor at home. I don't recall exactly, but it must have been the day after going to the cinema. I do remember someone organizing a drawing contest on our street and I drew Darth Vader. I won a giant size Dairy Milk chocolate bar for my efforts!

Where is the strangest place you've been recognized?
Los Angeles. Just near Grauman's Chinese



Theater one night. It was during Celebration in 2007. People were passing and saying, "Hey, JAKE!" It was kind of freaky. It was the first time I'd been to any Star Wars event and because my art was on the passes, I must have signed thousands! It was still pretty strange to be recognized in the street.

Which is your favorite Star Wars film and why?

It's tough. I love all three of the original trilogy. *A New Hope* has so many iconic moments, it still looks fantastic on a design level, plus there's the nostalgia. I can still plug into that excitement I felt as a child. And *The Empire Strikes Back* starts with the probot and just gets more and more badass as the film goes on! 🤖

EXPANDED

JAKE's amazing Star Wars art can be seen in *How To Speak Droid with R2-D2* and *How To Speak Wookiee*—both available now!

UNIVERSE





EXCLUSIVE FICTION

BLADE SQUADRON

PART TWO

BY DAVID J. WILLIAMS AND MARK S. WILLIAMS,
WITH ART BY CHRIS TREVAS

THE STORY SO FAR...

Cadet Gina Moonson, a rookie B-wing pilot, has become involved in the Battle of Endor. As the attack on the second Death Star rages, her group is assigned to guard the rear... Until the fearsome Star Destroyer *Devastator* arrives and the B-wings are plunged into a fight against impossible odds...

It had all been leading up to this moment.

Gina Moonson could see that now; could see how all the paths and permutations of her life had led, inexorably, to this place: somewhere in space near Endor, an absolutely insignificant moon, which was now—thanks to the Empire's decision to build its battle station there—the most important place in the galaxy. All her time as a smuggler back on Coruscant, all her resolution to stay one step ahead of the law and never to get involved... well, it hadn't worked. She'd gotten involved and then some.

And now there was no turning back. Moonson had seen her share of security and police cruisers—had either flown in, or run from, virtually every type of ship out there—but she'd never seen an actual Star Destroyer before. Sure, she'd watched a million holos, participated in endless training runs, studied schematics till her eyes glazed over... but this was different. This was a monstrous slab of metal covered with guns and armor, crewed by enough men to fill a city... the kind of ship other craft never went near if they wanted to live to see another landfall. Every instinct in Moonson was screaming at her to turn her B-wing around and flee—but somehow she controlled her nerves and held her course, accelerating in toward the *Devastator*. For the first time since she had joined the Rebellion she realized the true magnitude of her situation; the fun and games were over.

All that was left was to die bravely.

"EVERY INSTINCT IN MOONSON WAS SCREAMING AT HER TO TURN HER B-WING AROUND AND FLEE."

She pulled into formation behind Blade Leader, rotated her ship's wing thirty degrees around the gyro-stabilized cockpit in which she sat; Moonson's wingman Blade Four executed the same maneuver as he brought up the rear. She didn't need to check her scanners to know Lieutenant Braylen Stramm and his wing man were matching her course and speed. All the fumbled training missions and mishaps were forgotten; the real thing was underway, and the squadron was rising to the moment, finally working together as a single seamless unit. The ships resembled some great avian flock as they fell into attack formation. On Moonson's tactical display the *Devastator* was a huge spinning ball of electronic countermeasures punctuated by an outgoing hail of laser cannon fire. As the ships accelerated towards the behemoth, Moonson could feel her craft's S-foils buckling as she struggled to keep on course while hits from the *Devastator's* laser cannons drained her deflector shield power and rocked the ship. Unfortunately there were few real options for getting close to a Star Destroyer, except to go straight at it. But at the moment, incoming fire was the least of Moonson's worries; they were approaching far too fast for the ships' gunners to lock onto, and even then it would take several direct hits to knock out one of the

B-wings. She was just starting to think they might make it all the way to the Star Destroyer itself when...

"Stay in formation people! Interceptors incoming!"

Wing Commander Fox's voice echoed through her headset as a squadron of TIE interceptors poured around the Star Destroyer and rushed in toward her. They must have been in a holding pattern immediately aft of the ship, but now they were deploying in earnest against the B-wing menace. On paper, the mismatch was considerable: B-wings were assault fighters that maneuvered like freighters, stuffed as they were with avionics packages usually reserved for the smaller capital ships. Pilots relied on the complex nav systems to enable them to score hits—but in a ship-to-ship dogfight, the

B-wing was at a considerable disadvantage even with the A-wings that were flying escort. All they could do was accelerate toward the target, hoping that at least some of them would get close enough to deliver their payloads. Moonsong watched as the TIE fighters broke formation and swept past them, executing seamless loops that put them on the squadron's tail, opening up a withering blast of fire all around the B-wings.

Admiral Montferrat could not believe the audacity of these rebel scum. Didn't they realize they were facing the *Devastator*? Vader's onetime flagship, the pride of Death Squadron... Montferrat prided himself on having the best trained crew in the entire Imperial Navy. Ever since he had taken command of her at the battle of Hoth, Montferrat had personally and ruthlessly combed the ranks, recruiting and promoting only those officers and ratings who had met his meticulous and exacting standards. And even though he found TIE fighter commander Gradd personally distasteful, there was no doubt that his skills as a fighter ace were almost on a par with Darth Vader himself. Montferrat watched the engagement unfold on the *Devastator's* giant tactical display. Several rebel ships had been destroyed already; the remainder were taking heavy fire from the TIE interceptors. At this point most sane pilots would have broken off their attack to deal with their pursuers, but the rebels waited until they were deep within the *Devastator's* flak envelope before executing their own high speed turns, insuring the ensuing dogfight would occur in uncomfortably close proximity to the monolithic ship. And the irrational human factor didn't stop there: Montferrat watched as a single B-wing fighter spiraled back, directly into the heart of Gradd's squadron. The pilot knew full well what he was doing: buying time for his comrades. One surprised TIE pilot died in a hail of laser fire from the B-wing's quad cannons before he even knew what had hit him. The rebel pilot then abruptly cut his speed, allowing two TIE interceptors to pass, which he then lacerated with pinpoint shots from his craft's ion cannons. He might have been able to score a fourth kill had Gradd not threaded the needle of fire and blown the B-wing to pieces. Montferrat rounded in fury on one of his gunnery officers who had continued to shoot into the dogfight, hitting one of the B-wings but just missing two of the TIE interceptors: "Cease fire you fool, you'll hit our own pilots!"

The blood drained from the gunnery officer's face—he stopped firing as Montferrat turned back to the tactical display, absorbing the fleet positions of the larger battle raging all around.

"Helm, change course by seven degrees, keep us between the rebel attack force and the Death Star. We'll make sure none of their ships reach the station."

Commander Gradd couldn't help but grin as he zeroed in on another B-wing. Panicked, the rebel pilot attempted erratic evasive maneuvers. Gradd's smile intensified as he fell in behind him and blew out the starfighter's quad engine system with a single shot. He didn't even bother looking at the snub fighter disintegrate as he sped past. There was no question in Gradd's mind that rebel pilots were mostly inferior, if not just outright incompetent. He'd heard a lot of talk about the B-wing before this battle—how they posed an unprecedented danger to Star Destroyers if they could get enough maneuvering room to deploy their weaponry. But Gradd had no intention of giving them that room. Not that it would matter anyway; regardless



of B-wing specifics, Gradd had always placed far more faith in the man than the machine. Though he would have been the first to admit that maxim was double-edged; it chafed him to no end that the most famous pilot in the galaxy was a twenty something farmboy who had somehow managed to blow up the first Death Star. But sometimes luck was a fickle mistress. Unfortunately, Gradd's secret hopes of cutting Skywalker's legend down to size in a glorious ship-to-ship encounter had been dashed when he heard that the Emperor himself had sent Darth Vader to bring the boy to him alive. Gradd would just have to make up for the lost opportunity by killing as many rebel pilots as he could. He could tell that whoever was running the rebel wing of pilots had some combat experience. That was going to make the kill all the more satisfying. He checked his scanner, searching for the fighter receiving the most com traffic; it was an old trick he used to find the enemy wing leader. The tactic didn't fail him: one of the escort A-wings lit up and Gradd locked him into his targeting computer.

"Break, break, break!" Fox yelled into his comlink. Blade Squadron broke formation several thousand meters above the *Devastator's* topside and went ship to ship, an angry swarm of TIE interceptors, A-wings and B-wings buzzing around the gigantic vessel. It only took a few seconds for things to go from bad to worse; Fox's long range scanners picked up a huge electromagnetic buildup around the new Death Star.



Before he could even ponder what the station was doing, a bright beam of green light leapt from its radial cannon and incinerated an entire rebel cruiser.

The station was operational.

Admiral Ackbar and General Calrissian's voices echoed over the fleetwide com, ordering the rebel fleet to engage the Imperial Star Destroyers. But Fox had more immediate problems at hand, with no less than three interceptors on his tail and two more coming for him over the bubble's horizon. They had identified him as the leader and were going to try to shut him down hard. Fox dialed back his speed, spoiling the shots of the interceptors on his tail. One veered past him at high speed, forcing the ships on that vector to swerve off to avoid a collision. As the starfighter overshot, Fox's wingman Blade One managed to get off a bracket of fire, knocking one of the delta-shaped wings clean off, causing it to spin out of control and smash into another interceptor. But Blade One's triumph was short-lived as two of the interceptors caught him in a cross-fire, opening up so quickly that he probably never even knew what hit him. The remaining interceptor matched Fox's speed, staying on him despite Fox's weaving flight pattern. Fox gritted his teeth and leaned forward.

"Okay fella, you wanna play," he muttered. "Let's see how

good you really are"—and promptly swerved hard, taking the ship through a dizzying set of maneuvers. But the interceptor matched them, moving ever closer, filling Fox's display with the ominous gray shadow of his foe. His sensors showed its forward lasers charging for the killing shot.

Gradd smiled as his targeting computer locked onto the A-wing. The board lit up green as Gradd unleashed a barrage of fire from the interceptor's laser cannons—at first cascading off the A-wing's heavy shielding, but quickly punching through. Parts of the rebel ship began to burn. Gradd was astonished at the amount of damage his quarry was taking while still remaining operational—and even now it took all of Gradd's concentration to keep up with the rebel pilot's evasive maneuvering. Back in the early days of the Rebellion, Gradd had once been impressed by these intuitive upstart fighter pilots, making up for skill with sheer audacity and will. Now he'd killed far too many of them to give any credit to their unorthodox piloting.

Which is why what happened next took him so completely by surprise.

At the last possible second Fox flipped his A-wing over, yanking back on the stick and executing a high G-force barrel roll under the attacking interceptor. The Imperial pilot gave up the advantage of pursuit so he could take a final shot, scoring a direct hit on the A-wing's drive systems, which much to the TIE interceptor's surprise, did not result in a killing shot. He most likely died wondering why that was as Fox came out of the roll behind him and blew him to pieces. But Fox had no time to savor his triumph; his vision flared red from all the emergency lights in his cockpit, and he became dimly aware that he was choking back blood. He opened up the comm channel.

"Blade Leader to group; if you make it past the fighter screen, execute your primary mission. Over and out."

**BEFORE FOX COULD EVEN
PONDER WHAT THE STATION WAS
DOING, A BRIGHT BEAM OF GREEN
LIGHT LEAPT FROM ITS RADIAL
CANNON AND INCINERATED AN
ENTIRE REBEL CRUISER.**

Stramm saw Blade Leader's ship spiral off from the attack, obviously fighting to maintain control—so much for Fox, he thought. There wasn't time to think about whether their leader would survive. It was just one more factor in the chaos of the battle as he attempted to mobilize an attack run amidst the dogfight. But the hysterical yelling in his headset wasn't helping.

"Too many TIE fighters! We've got to get out of here!"

"That's a negative Blade Four," said Stamm. "Keep the comms clear of chatter!" His attack computer told him Blade Three and Four were with him inside the Destroyer's defense envelope—and he knew the ships would be syncing their fire control systems, automatically coordinating an attack package of laser fire and proton munitions.

"I know you've got the attack data ready, right Blade Three?"

"I'm working as fast as I can!" said Moonsong. She was facing considerable distraction. Despite the death of their wing commander, the TIE interceptors were redoubling the fury of



their attack; she could see their glittering lights as they maneuvered to get behind the rebel fighters. Then Stramm broke off from the attack formation and swung his craft around to face the fighters on their tail.

"Get that attack data; I'll hold them off."

Moonsong bit her lip. She couldn't worry about Stramm. He knew what he was doing.

She hoped.

The system-wide tactical display was a web of blinking multicolored lights and indicators that stretched from Endor's high orbit all the way out to the titanic battle that raged between the two fleets and the new Death Star.

It was a fitting place for the Rebellion to end.

And yet—despite his satisfaction—Montferrat felt shame that his own part in this had been so less than perfect. He could only marvel at the level of incompetence Gradd had displayed. Not only had his arrogance gotten him killed, it had actually increased the previously miniscule threat the rebel

fighters posed for the *Devastator*. But he wasn't worried—not yet, anyway.

"Fighter control, report."

An ashen faced junior officer stepped forward. "The rebels are down to less than half a dozen ships, sir."

"And our fighter screen?"

"We've sustained major damage to our flight deck and can't launch or recover any more interceptors. Should I signal to another ship for fighter support?"

Montferrat gave the officer an icy stare. "Everyone else is a little busy. Set all weapon batteries for point blank range and fire at will."

Moonsong had a plan. It wasn't much of one, but it was the best her ship's computer could do given the timing. Her nav-systems lined up the angles, finding the pathway through the *Devastator*'s electronic defense grid. She rapidly typed in the new attack vector and hit the transmit while simultaneously lining up the crosshairs projected onto her helmet's heads-up display. Her board went green, indicating that Blade Two and



Four had received the data—but then it suddenly flashed back to yellow. Blade Four's targeting system must have been damaged and wouldn't lock on.

"Reset your targeting computer, Fany!" Moonsong barked into her comm.

"No can do, the whole system's crashed. You go in without me." Moonsong's scanner's showed a TIE interceptor vectoring in to target Blade Four as he peeled out of formation. Moonsong cursed under her breath; there was nothing she could do—the pair of TIE interceptors on her tail would have their firing solutions in a matter of seconds. Moonsong fully expected the next shots to end her short career as a rebel pilot—but instead both interceptors blew up as Blade Two swept in behind them and took them out with clean precise shots that only an expert could have pulled off. The blasts they'd just unleashed ripped

past Moonsong, missing her and striking the Star Destroyer, impacting harmlessly against its armor. Moonsong knew better than to waste time thanking Stramm; instead she locked flight paths with him. They both pulled back on their throttles, rotating their wings through a one-eighty and bringing their ion cannons to bear, unleashing their proton torpedoes and scoring direct hits on the weak points in the Devastator's navigational shielding. The ship's hyperdrive detonated, causing a chain reaction of explosions which blew back into the Star Destroyer's primary generators.

Montferrat pulled out his pistol and shot the panicking officer. So much for insubordination. As klaxons blared and warning lights flashed all around him, Montferrat made his way across the burning bridge to an engineering station and shoved the dead officer who had manned it out of the way so he could see why the drive section had stopped responding to his frantic queries for more power. The answer was as simple as it was definitive: an ion overload had destroyed the cooling manifolds

and ruptured the hyperdrive's magnetic containment bubble, which meant that everybody down in the power plant was either dead or dying, and the ship was undergoing systematic demolition.

"Sir!" screamed a badly burned officer. "The Death Star's shield is down!"

Montferrat looked around at the dying screens. The whole moment seemed like a dream. How was this possible? How had the mightiest space force ever assembled been bested by a bunch of misfits, rejects, and malcontents? He took a last look around the bridge as he slowly pulled off his black gloves and laid them down on the shattered console. He could feel the floor plates shudder and for a moment he seemed to rise into the air as the craft's artificial gravity flickered out. He felt light as a feather, and for some unknown reason the sensation seemed right and proper.

As Moonsong and Stramm's B-wings accelerated to maximum speed, the Devastator burnt in their wake. Stramm opened up the comm-channel.

"Blade Two to Admiral Ackbar—the course is clear. Tell General Calrissian he's got nothing but empty space all the way to the Death Star."

"Acknowledged, Blade Two. Good work."

Stramm switched frequencies back to the squadron. "Blade Two to all surviving units, form up on me. This fight isn't over yet."

But all Moonsong could hear was the echo of static—static that had never made her feel more hollow.

"Blade Four here." Fany's battered ship pulled into formation. "I think we're the only survivors."

"Not quite," said a voice.

Moonsong and Stramm looked up to see Fox's A-wing angling toward them. Even as they took that in, the Devastator started to explode behind it, lighting up the ships, a tiny daytime star in the skies over Endor. But Moonsong's elation quickly faded as her sensors told her Fox's ship was experiencing multiple critical systems failures.

"Eject Blade Leader," she said. "We'll recover your pod. Get out of there now."

But Fox's voice was resigned to the inevitable. "I already tried. The main interlocks are fused. They won't let me disengage."

"Hold course; I'll intercept and—"

"That's a negative Moonsong. Regroup and form up to assist the fleet. Nobody's called off the war on my account."

Moonsong hesitated. "You heard the man," said Stramm. Was his voice breaking? Moonsong couldn't tell. She steeled herself, locked course with Stramm and Fany; the three B-wings veered off toward the rest of the rebel fleet. The fight was now raging all around the Death Star. The shield was down and rebel fighter wings were calling for help as they barreled in to attack the unfinished station. There were still a number of Star Destroyers trying to stem the seemingly endless tide of rebel interceptors. Moonsong watched as Fox's ship faded on her rear screens.

Ahead lay the Death Star. ☹

EXPANDED

David J. Williams and Mark S. Williams co-wrote the short story "Maze Run," which appeared in *Star Wars Insider* #131.

See more of Chris Trevas' amazing art at www.christrevas.com

UNIVERSE

FIRST
LOOK!

HOT STUFF!

AT NEW YORK TOY FAIR IN FEBRUARY, MATTEL ANNOUNCED THAT HOT WHEELS AND *STAR WARS* ARE JOINING FORCES. JEAN GOMEZ, VICE PRESIDENT OF HOT WHEELS FOR MATTEL, SPOKE EXCLUSIVELY TO *STAR WARS INSIDER* ABOUT THE ROAD AHEAD. INTERVIEW: JAMES BURNS

S*tar Wars Insider:* Can you tell us a little bit about why Hot Wheels is teaming up with *Star Wars*?

Jean Gomez: We're thrilled about the partnership because these are two of the most iconic brands of the past fifty years, yet they've never intersected in any meaningful way until now. They actually have a lot in common: Hot Wheels is all about thrilling vehicle experiences and we all know how George Lucas was influenced by car and racing culture when he developed the very first *Star Wars* film. Our goal was to bring these two brands together in a way that's equally true to Hot Wheels and *Star Wars*.

The first product will be sold at San Diego Comic-Con International in July, and it features the most iconic character from *Star Wars*: Darth Vader. It's a 1:64 scale Hot Wheels car specially designed

to represent Vader, which is what we call a "character car." It will come in a special lightsaber display case with lights and sounds.

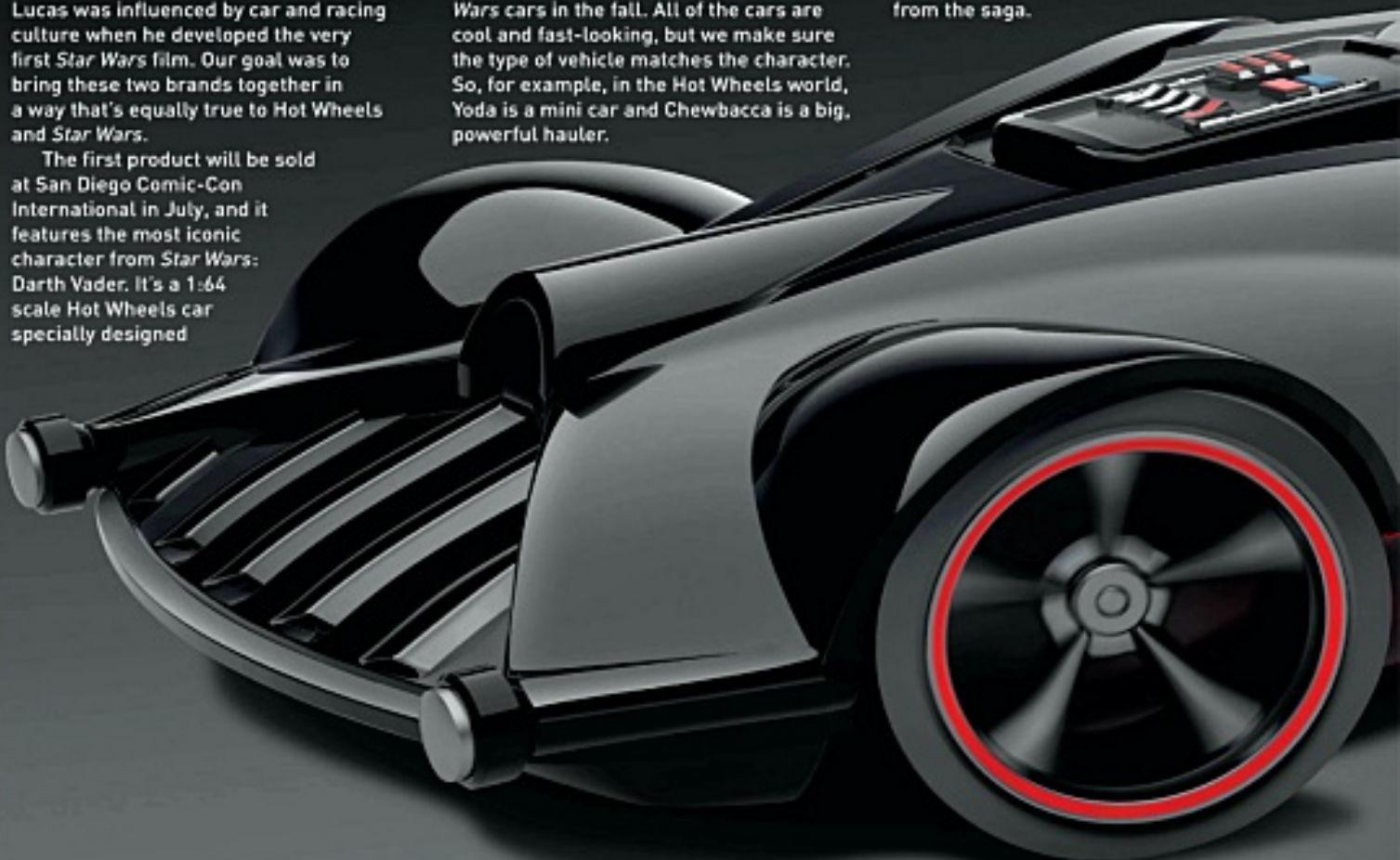
We'll also be displaying a life-size version of the car at the convention, which will be a drive-able, street legal performance car!

Will there be more character cars?

We're going to launch a full line of *Star Wars* cars in the fall. All of the cars are cool and fast-looking, but we make sure the type of vehicle matches the character. So, for example, in the Hot Wheels world, Yoda is a mini car and Chewbacca is a big, powerful hauler.

We'll be doing Hot Wheels cars with *Star Wars* inspired decorations as separate assortments. You'll be amazed at the kinds of "inspired by" decos we're coming up with for *Star Wars*-themed cars!

And in addition to the legendary characters, the vehicles in *Star Wars* are just as important and iconic. So we're releasing a whole line of die cast starships in early 2015 that will be replicas of the ships and other vehicles from the saga.



Each vehicle in the starships line will come with a display that can either sit on your shelf or attach to your finger so you can "fly" the ships! It's simple but fun!

We're also developing playsets for the starships that will really bring them to life. We're taking our years of expertise making cars perform on track sets and applying it to starships. The results are pretty awesome!



WIN A NEW CAR!

Thanks to our friends at Hot Wheels, you could win one of five Darth Vader Character Cars! Write or email in to the address on page 3 by July 27 and include the subject line, "I'm a Darth Driver!"

What if fans can't make it to San Diego?

We're going to make a small quantity of the Darth Vader cars available at www.HotWheelsCollectors.com after the show for those who aren't able to make the trip to San Diego, but other than that everything we're creating in the first year is aimed at retail.

Will you have some of the upcoming products on display at SDCC?

Yes, we'll have a full Star Wars display right next to our life-size Darth Vader car covering both the cars and the starship lines.

Images are a digital rendering and do not necessarily reflect the intended lighting effect of the final product

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THE MYTH MAKER



ROGER CHRISTIAN WON AN ACADEMY AWARD FOR HIS SET DECORATION ON 1977'S INAUGURAL *STAR WARS* BEFORE WORKING AS SECOND UNIT DIRECTOR ON *RETURN OF THE JEDI* AND *THE PHANTOM MENACE*. *STAR WARS INSIDER* CATCHES UP WITH THE GREAT MAN FOR AN EXCLUSIVE ONE-TO-ONE...
WORDS: CALUM WADDELL

Artist-turned-filmmaker Roger Christian boasts a hugely creative stint in fantasy cinema that includes Oscar-winning set and prop design work on *Star Wars* and a similar role on 1979's groundbreaking *Alien*. At the time of *A New Hope*, Christian was a young, aspiring artist who had worked on such television series as *My Partner the Ghost* and *Jason King*—but a chance meeting with director George Lucas would seal his fate and, ultimately, bring him into the fold of the hit franchise.

"There were only a few of us that really saw what George was doing with *Star Wars*," begins Christian. "There was the set designer, John Barry, and Nick Maley—on effects—and we would have lunch together every day. We became quite good friends during that time. But not everyone was behind George. I remember the cinematographer on *Star Wars*, Gil Taylor, gave him a really hard time—and he was not the only one. There were others who thought it was just a cheap sci-fi film being made for children. It was just a job for a lot of the people on the set. Before *Star Wars*, sci-fi was considered the lowest ebb in cinema. George changed all that and sci-fi suddenly had a big, Oscar-worthy endorsement. I think *Alien* helped as well. Both of these films made sci-fi sexy to a new, younger audience. But, before that, the budgets were small and no one took this sort of cinema seriously."



STARTING OUT

As a central part of the design team, Christian was also sent out to faraway locations in order to scout possible whereabouts for eventual Lucas landscapes. The desert scenes of *Star Wars* were shot in Tunisia—although the artist reveals that Morocco was originally in the running for some sequences...

"I had been to Morocco before," he reveals. "It was a place I really liked. I actually used to visit the country a lot when I was younger. I remember sitting on a slip of canvas, strung across three oil barrels, while I was scouting for *Star Wars* locations. It was very dusty and some of the country was still quite desolate. I remember saying to George, 'I think all of this wind and dust might cause some problems.' John Barry had filmed a movie called *The Little Prince* in Tunisia a few years before so he steered

"I THINK SIR ALEC GUINNESS WAS THE REASON GEORGE SURVIVED THE WHOLE THING!"

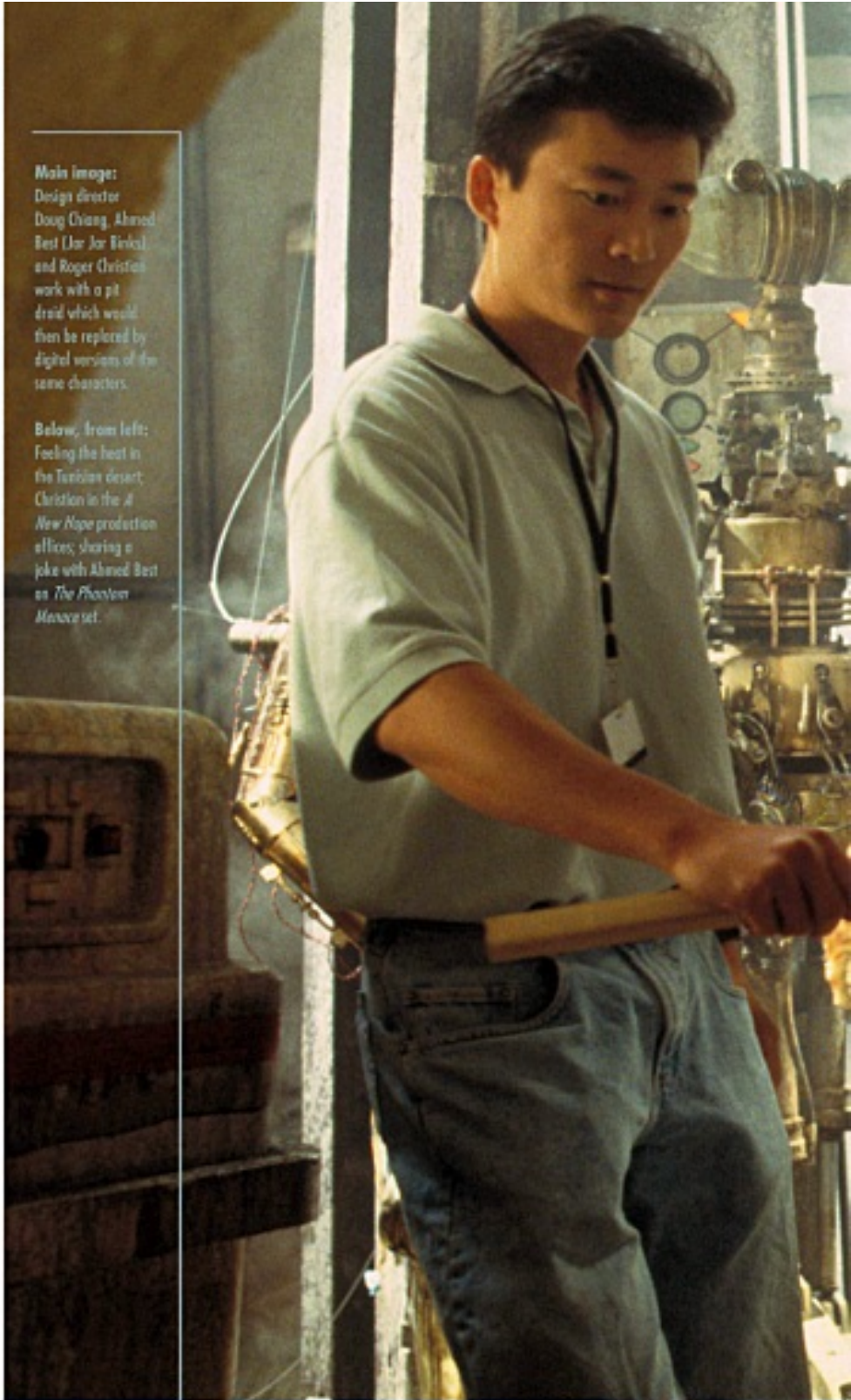
Star Wars towards there. Morocco had a much more ancient feel, but Tunisia worked out better because Barry knew the area so well."

Christian also has fond recollections of the *Star Wars* cast, whom he insists also supported a frequently exhausted Lucas during the globe-spanning shoot...

"I think Sir Alec Guinness was the reason George survived the whole thing," adds Christian. "As I mentioned, Gil Taylor was not very nice to him—and I will say that gently. There were huge arguments on the first day, and that continued, and people joined into Gil's camp—such as John Stears, who worked on some of the special effects. The rest of the cast was great though—and as soon as they saw Alec Guinness taking it seriously they all worked hard, too. Harrison knew George from *American Graffiti* and he was the cement, if you like, between Lucas and the other actors. It was Mark Hamill's first film and he was putting everything into it. Carrie Fisher was the same. A lot of these memories came back to me when I was about to do *The Phantom Menace*. Rick McCallum asked me to come up and meet him and George about directing the second unit. I remember George said, 'There were only about five key people on my crew during *Star Wars* who stuck by my side.' Then he said that I was one of them. But I saw what George was doing. I grew up absorbed with old legends such as King Arthur and stuff like that—these are what got me through my childhood. When I read the *Star Wars* script I could see that it was not just another throwaway sci-fi movie—I saw what was under the surface."

Main image:
Design director
Doug Chiang, Ahmed
Best (Jar Jar Binks)
and Roger Christian
work with a pit
droid which would
then be replaced by
digital versions of the
same characters.

Below, from left:
Feeling the heat in
the Tunisian desert;
Christian in the *A
New Hope* production
offices; sharing a
joke with Ahmed Best
on *The Phantom
Menace* set.





"GEORGE'S TARGET WAS ALWAYS THAT YOUNGER AGE GROUP. I AM NOT SURE HE EXPECTED THE DADS AND GRANDADS TO BE SO ENTHRALLED BY IT."



INTO THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Certainly, Christian's loyalty towards Lucas, and his belief in *Star Wars*, paid off when his first filmmaking effort, the acclaimed 25 minute short *Black Angel*, was given a spot before *The Empire Strikes Back* when the it first played in UK cinemas. Visually mesmerizing, the gothic beauty of *Black Angel*—which was shot in Scotland—has recently been re-mastered and shown to considerable acclaim at numerous film festivals.

Moreover, Christian was given the responsibility of directing second unit on both 1983's *Return of the Jedi* and 1999's *The Phantom Menace*...

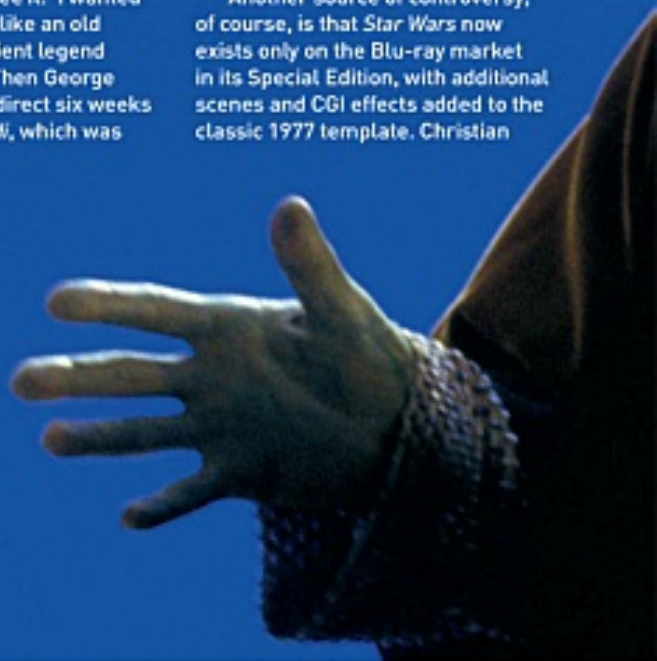
"I had just designed *Alien* and I was determined to move into directing," says Christian. "I was offered the chance to design *The Empire Strikes Back*, but I really wanted to stick to my ambitions. Finally I got the chance to do my own short film, *Black Angel*, which George wanted to show before *The Empire Strikes Back*. He even said to me, 'Once you have finished this—please make sure I am the first person that gets to see it.' I wanted *Black Angel* to seem like an old classic myth, an ancient legend from another time. Then George brought me back to direct six weeks of second unit on *Jedi*, which was

great because in that role you don't carry the weight of being the guy in charge. I just did what George asked and had a really fun time—although a lot of my job seemed to be spent filming Ewoks! George had me shooting all of the Ewok parties and stuff like that. I remember thinking, 'He obviously plans to make a standalone movie about Ewoks at some point, and I was right! I think he could see that they were going to appeal to a young audience.'"

Of course, the Ewoks continue to be a source of some contention for older *Star Wars* fans—but Christian maintains that the series was always designed to be family-friendly and the ardent adult following was never something that Lucas anticipated...

"George's target was always that younger age group," he mentions. "I am not sure he expected the dads and granddads to be so enthralled by it. That's how Jar Jar Binks came about as well. People might forget this, but the kids loved Jar Jar when *The Phantom Menace* was released. It was just the adults that couldn't stand him [laughs]. But George always said he was making *The Phantom Menace* for a young audience."

Another source of controversy, of course, is that *Star Wars* now exists only on the Blu-ray market in its Special Edition, with additional scenes and CGI effects added to the classic 1977 template. Christian



admits that he would like to see the original cut out there as well—while understanding the reasoning behind the numerous alterations that have been made...

"George is just an inherent fiddler," he laughs. "But he does maintain that he would have done all of these added sequences if the technology had been there back in 1977. I do think it would be a good idea to put out the original *Star Wars*, untouched, for fans. Just as a separate edition. Maybe that will happen eventually now Disney have the property—I don't know—but, at the end of the day, George wanted people to see the film that he always wanted to make. I sort of understood putting in



Left, main image: Roger Christian directs actor Robert Thirle (Senator Passel Argente) on the Galactic Senate Set at Leavesden Studios.

Opposite page: Christian and his crew: Giles Nottgens (second unit director of photography), Steven Hall (second unit focus puller), plan a shot on the Senate Rotunda, Galactic Senate set at Leavesden Studios.

Left: Christian with director of photography Roger Pratt on the set of Christian's short movie, *Black Angel*, which preceded some screenings of *The Empire Strikes Back* in Europe and Australia.

the Jabba the Hutt scene. That is how *Star Wars* was written, and intended, but the money and expertise just wasn't there. I know as a filmmaker myself that I always want to fiddle with my films afterwards. At the time, when you are making a movie, you are under such pressure that you think, *Oh dear, I wish I hadn't let that happen.*"

Now a director in his own right, with a CV that includes the paranormal horror gem *The Sender* (1982), the well-regarded biography *Nostradamus* (1994), and the epic *Battlefield Earth* (1999), Christian continues to remain a huge fan of fantasy filmmaking. As such, he mentions that he remains interested in what will happen next in the *Star Wars* universe...

"J.J. Abrams is obviously a very good filmmaker," enthuses Christian. "I have heard that he is going back to the feeling of the original *Star Wars* from 1977. I think that is a relief because George managed to present a mythic quality to that film—it was something that really tapped into your subconscious. Underneath all of the space ships and lasers it was a film adapted from ancient stories and legends.

"I think that is the enduring legacy of *Star Wars*: It is a space Western, but it is also a myth. I hope that still gets retained. But I guess we will all have to wait and see..."

EXPANDED

Follow Roger Christian on twitter
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Black Angel is now available on iTunes.

UNIVERSE

AUTHORS OF THE EXPANDED UNIVERSE: TWENTY YEARS OF

BY MICHAEL KOGGE



Christian Gossett



Tom Veitch

THE EARLY DAYS OF THE JEDI WERE EXPLORED IN A MUCH-LOVED COMIC BOOK SERIES THAT SOON BECAME A FAN FAVORITE. IN THE FIRST PART OF A THREE-PART SERIES, *INSIDER* LOOKS AT THE MAKING OF A MUCH REVERED MASTERPIECE.

For over a thousand generations, the Jedi Knights were the guardians of peace and justice in the Old Republic. Before the dark times, before the Empire.

Those two simple lines of dialogue, spoken so elegiacally by a hermit in sackcloth robes, accomplished more than any matte painting, model, or special effect ever could in making the *Star Wars* galaxy seem real and true. For here was a setting far grander than just the planets and starships seen on the silver screen. Here was a galaxy that had a history—a *mythology*—even more ancient than ours on Earth. And rather than offering a flashback to those bygone days of long, long, long ago, filmmaker George Lucas chose to paint this history only with words. The mind's eye was the sole window into this world: a past which needed to be imagined in order to be believed.

It was the greatest visual effect of all.



TALES OF THE JEDI

A Million Dreams

Ever since those two lines were first heard in 1977, countless viewers around the world imagined what this lost history of *Star Wars* could be. Some re-created it with action figures and dioramas. Others wrote fan fiction or made illustrations. Many simply spent late nights dreaming and wondering, *Who were these Jedi Knights? What was this Old Republic?*

Tom Veitch was one of these dreamers. A noted poet and comic-book writer, Veitch first saw *Star Wars* in San Francisco in 1977.

"What struck me most was the sense of realism that Lucas brought to a fantasy and science fiction movie—the 'dents, dirt, and rust' effect which Ridley Scott took to the max a few years later in *Blade Runner*," Veitch says.

"Another thing about the first film was the tremendous imagination and sense of humor that pervaded it. You could feel it spilling out beyond itself, in all directions. The possible stories told in this 'galaxy far, far away' were virtually infinite."

During the late 1980s when it appeared that interest in *Star Wars* was as dead as the Jedi and Old Republic, Veitch still couldn't get those possible stories out of his head. "As a *Star Wars* fan, I wanted to know more about the Jedi than was shown in the films," Veitch says. "I wanted to know more about the Force. I wanted to know more about the history of the galaxy, and the war with the dark side of the Force."

Veitch got his chance to continue the adventures of Luke Skywalker with the comic book series *Dark Empire* in 1991, helping reignite the global popularity of *Star Wars*. Yet his dreams went farther back than the Skywalker clan—they went to that era Obi-Wan spoke about in the original film. After the success of *Dark Empire*'s first two issues, when Lucasfilm approached Veitch about revitalizing *Indiana Jones* as a comic, Veitch pitched another idea: a series he called "The Jedi Chronicles" about the Jedi Knights of yore in their full glory.

"George liked the idea, but he said we couldn't use the word 'Chronicles' since he was using it for *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*. So it became *Tales of the Jedi*," Veitch says.

Below, left: In this fax to Veitch and Dark Horse editor Dan Thonland, Gossett describes his design of the Old Republic's Jedi Knights: "The ancient Jedi took great pride in maintaining their 'selves,' inner and out. The truth of this is demonstrated by the intricate sash and complex knot that held it in place. The Jedi's lightsaber [sic] was held by a device known as a scabbard that was attached to the sash, keeping the sabre always at the chosen location."

THE POSSIBLE STORIES
TOLD IN THIS 'GALAXY
FAR, FAR AWAY' WERE
VIRTUALLY INFINITE.

Left, main image: Dave Dorman's striking cover art for *Tales of the Jedi* #2.



TALES OF THE JEDI WOULD BE, IN EFFECT, THE FIRST STAR WARS PREQUEL.

Prequels Before the Prequels

The movie prequels were still a distant endeavor, so *Tales of the Jedi* would be, in effect, the first *Star Wars* prequel. Moreover, Veitch already had some material he had generated when writing *Dark Empire*. For that series, he had invented the Jedi Holocron, a device that contains visual histories and legends of the Jedi Knights. One of the legends Veitch told in his back-page essays in *Dark Empire* was that of Ulic Qel-Droma, a noble Jedi Knight who tried to learn the secrets of the dark side, but fell to its temptations. Veitch thought Qel-Droma's story would be the most logical entry point for the new series, occurring nearly 4,000 years before *A New Hope*.

Tales, however, would require more than just a retelling in comic form of the fall of Ulic Qel-Droma. The entire *Star Wars* universe had to be re-imagined from the ground up to reflect its setting in the distant past. Starships needed to be redesigned, architecture rethought, technology retro-engineered. It would be a massive undertaking, and Veitch needed a group of artists who could meet the challenge.

He found his first collaborator in 22-year-old Christian Gossett.



Lippincott Kid

Christian Gossett was born in New York City in 1968, yet spent the majority of his childhood growing up around the film industry in Los Angeles. His mother worked as a corporate accounts manager and his father was an actor who landed small roles in every major 1970s show, from *Diff'rent Strokes* to *Charlie's Angels*. Science-fiction films of the time fascinated the young Gossett: *Voyage Into Space* moved him to tears, while *Planet of the Apes* inspired him to play out new adventures with his toys. When he heard about the space-fantasy film *Star Wars* "Coming soon to a theater near you," he was immediately hooked.

"By the spring of '77 I was one of those 'Charles Lippincott Kids' who had been snared in the brilliant pre-release marketing campaign [coordinated by Lucasfilm's vice president of marketing and research Lippincott]. I had read the *Los Angeles Times* serialized novelization, since my mom worked at the *Times* and got me into it. She knew I liked to draw, so she had me draw what I thought the characters might look like. It was fun to compare my thoughts to the movie designs. That was my first experimental concept design project," Gossett remembers.

"One of the great things about having an actor father who loved movies was he would keep my brother and I home from school when there was something he wanted to see, or knew we would want to see," Gossett says. His father took Christian and his brother to see *Star Wars* on its opening day at the local Fox theater. The movie blew their minds and they went to see it again, that very night. This time they brought their mother to watch it on the gigantic screen at Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood.





Opposite page, from top: Dave Dorman's cover art for *Tales of the Jedi* #2; Gossett's design of Jedi Master Thon, who trained Nami Sunrider in the Jedi arts. Gossett writes on this fax to editor Dan Tharion: "Plates are flat, sharp on engines, similar to prehistory stegosaurus."

This page: A powerful sketch of Ulic Qel-Droma by Gossett; Ulic Qel-Droma tests his saber skills with a training droid, one of Gossett's sketches for enemy troopers.

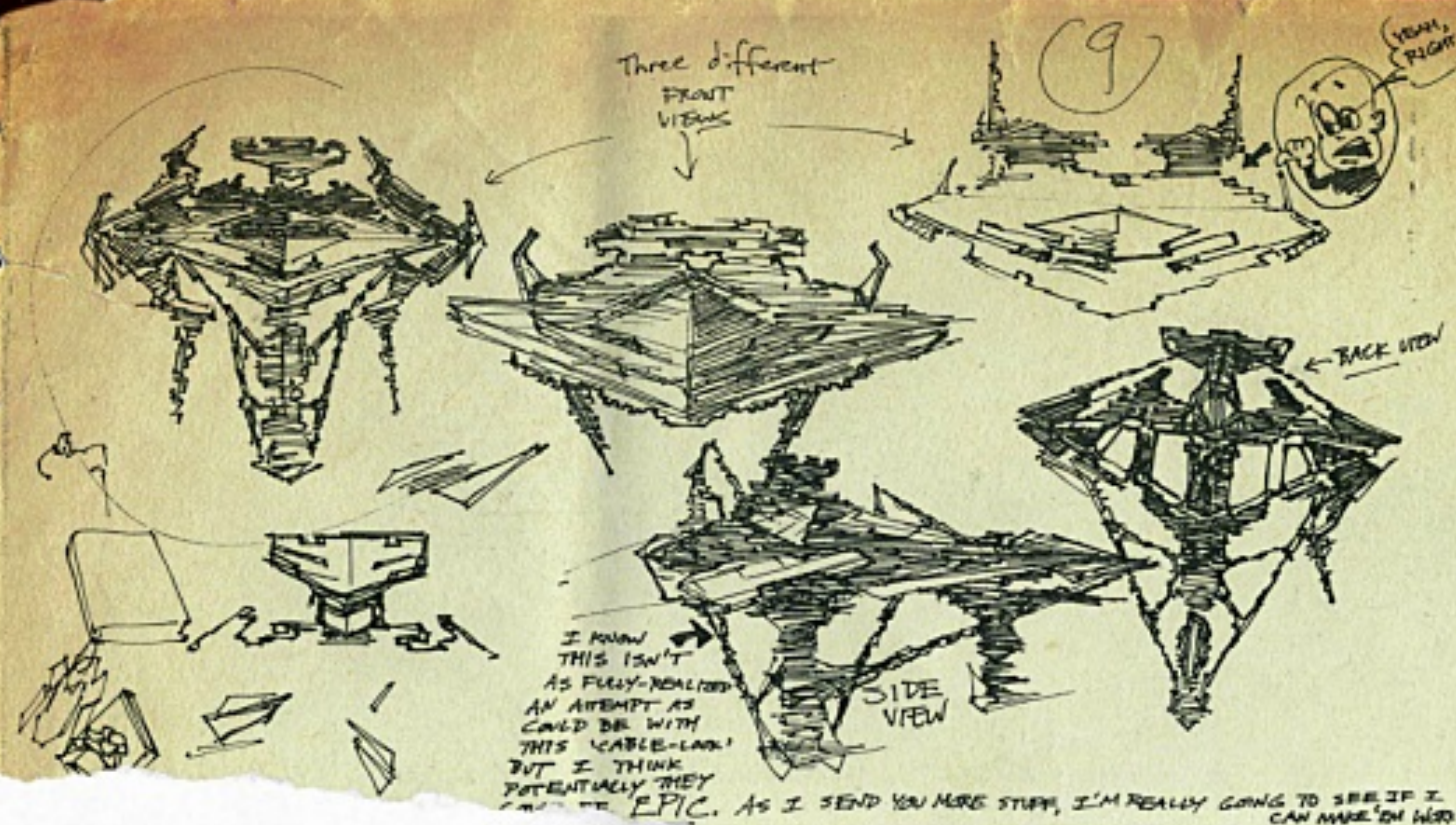
Tales of the Ninja Warriors

Before *Tales of the Jedi*, there was *Tales of the Ninja Warriors*, a black-and-white comic magazine to which Christian Gossett contributed his first creator-owned series, *Black Angel*. Gossett's love of comics ran tandem with that of science-fiction. After his mother saw him re-reading the few Marvel comics he had, she bought him an art table and the classic book *How to Draw Comics the Marvel Way* for his seventh birthday. "I designed my own line of heroes that year. Most of them were hilarious rip-offs of Marvel," Gossett recalls.

"But it's not as if I wanted to be a comic book artist. I just drew a lot. I didn't know I was working. I was just dreaming up stories and making those dreams into pictures."

Gossett gave up art to play sports soon after, and didn't start drawing again until he was 15, when his friends asked him to sketch their characters for the *Dungeons & Dragons* game he was playing with them. Emboldened by their response to his art, Gossett bought an old *Marvel Try-Out Book* and drew a *Punisher* story inside for fun. A local publisher, CFW Enterprises, liked the pages and gave Gossett his first paid job in comics for their magazine *Tales of the Ninja Warriors*. For a year and a half, Gossett had a crash-course in the discipline of comics, writing, drawing, and lettering six to sixteen pages a month.





"I WAS GOING TO GET INTO THE HEAD OF GEORGE LUCAS AND HIS ORIGINAL TEAM OF ARTISTS."—CHRIS GOSSETT

Hollywood Connections

Gossett strove to find other top-quality talent to contribute to the magazine. He soon discovered Frank Gomez, a comic book artist who was already somewhat of a North Hollywood legend by his senior year of high school. Gossett persuaded the magazine's editors to hire Gomez for his first major gig. Gomez would go on to pencil for DC Comics, working with Veitch on the *Kamandi* series. When Veitch asked Gomez if he knew any artists who'd be good for a *Star Wars* project, Gomez repaid the favor from years back and recommended Gossett.

Veitch met with Gossett at San Diego ComicCon in 1992. "With my editor Barbara Kesel's blessing, I wrote a three-page sample *Tales of the Jedi* script. I gave this script to artists I met at conventions, and they would do sketches and test pages for us," Veitch says. "I gave the test script to Chris and he turned in a first rate job."



Make It the Same, But Different

Gossett embraced the assignment to draw the first two issues of *Tales of the Jedi* with fervor. No pencil had ever trod where his was about to explore. "My job on *Star Wars* was to visually invent the Old Republic out of my own imagination. That's a damned cool gig to have when you are 22 years old," Gossett says. "I was told my story would take place 'four-thousand years before Luke' so I was like, 'Awesome! Got any reference?' There was literally zero. Nothing. Which I liked because when I first read *Star Wars* as a serial in a newspaper at nine years old, I was in the same position and that didn't stop me [from drawing], so why should it now?"

But Gossett couldn't just create an entirely new universe from scratch, even though the series was set in the past. The series' title bore the name *Star Wars*, and consequently he had to capture the flavor and the style of the film trilogy, binding the two disparate eras together. To do this, he went back to the basic building blocks of the universe.

"I told [Dark Horse editor] Dan Thorsland that what I was going to do was not stop at the original films as my influence," Gossett says. "I was going to get into the head of George and his original team of artists. What influenced them? What was the source of the source? I had already read some Joseph Campbell at that time, but now I read more. I had already seen *Seven Samurai*, but now I became a student of Kurosawa."

Gossett combined all these influences with his own ideas when drawing the first two issues of the series. He gave the starships a slightly insectoid appearance, yet kept the "dents, dirt, and rust" look of the original trilogy. He also spent considerable time designing the ancient Jedi, from the cut of their robes to the shape of their lightsaber handles. To him, the Jedi weren't galactic policemen, but mystical warriors descended from Kurosawa's samurai.

"The classic image of the Ronin is a much more effective framework for the Jedi than Space Cops. Jedi are Toshiro Mifune, Jedi are Clint Eastwood," Gossett says. "I mean, sure, there are both kinds. Some Jedi would like a regular gig serving some outpost. But others would have too much wanderlust for that. To me the interesting Jedi are those who travel the galaxy defending those who cannot defend themselves."

This page, from top: Gossett's sketch of a Jedi costume, based on Japanese samurai robes. He writes to Veitch: "Don't worry, I'm not drawing faces because compared to the task of single quote 'retro-designing' every aspect of the *Star Wars* galaxy, making it look cohesive, consistent, yet cool, from every starfighter to warship, every droid to every beastie, not to mention the many last details without which genius is impossible, **FACES WILL BE A CAKEWALK! FACES WILL BE LIKE VACATIONS!**"; Master Anz tells the story of how the beast-riders on Ord Mantell fight the city-dwellers; retro star cruisers of the era.

Opposite page, from top: Some ship concepts; Gossett's striking art depicting Ulic Qel-Droma and Tott Donwicks.



Only the Beginning

Published in the autumn of 1993, the initial two issues of *Tales of the Jedi* set a new standard for expanding the lore of the Star Wars universe. They showed that Star Wars wasn't just the saga of the Skywalker family—its universe was large enough for thousands of such sagas. And Veitch had plenty more stories to tell.

"There was a vast *Tales of the Jedi* story-web that was forming in my mind," Veitch remembers. "I had several notebooks full of ideas. Some days I used to sit with a cup of coffee and just spin out the possibilities for hours."

Those possibilities would continue with the next three issues of *Tales of the Jedi* that presented the story of the female Jedi Nomi Sunrider. Though Gossett did not draw that story arc, he would return in a few years to pencil the *Dark Lords of the Sith* and *Redemption* series. Nonetheless, those opening issues of *Tales* featuring Ulic Qel-Droma remain a touchstone in Gossett's career, as he went on to develop his own space opera comic book series, *The Red Star*, along with directing films.

"It was, at that point in my life, the best thing ever," he says. "I was inventing an era of Star Wars."

To be continued next issue...

TOM VEITCH SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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(Dark Horse Comics, 1991-1993)

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(Image Comics, 1999+)

Black Angel in Tales of the Ninja (CGW Enterprises, 1988)

Dark Lords of the Sith (Dark Horse, 1994-95)
and *Redemption* (Dark Horse, 1998)

EXPANDED

Follow Michael Kogge online at www.michaelkogge.com or on Twitter @michaelkogge.

UNIVERSE



This page: The three pages Gossett drew from Veitch's sample script to get the job.



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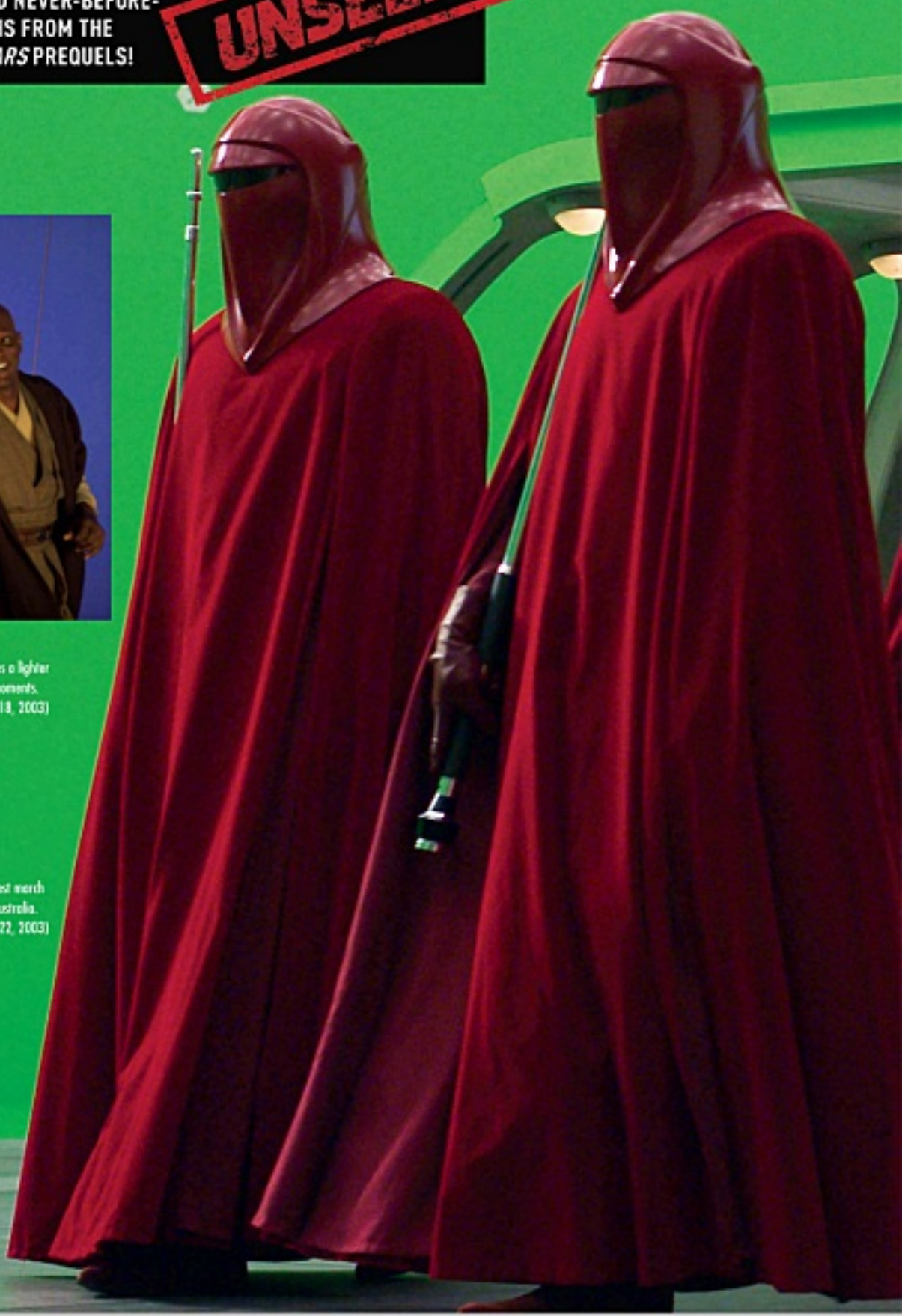
A SEARCH THROUGH THE LUCASFILM ARCHIVES
REVEALS SOME RARE AND NEVER-BEFORE-
PUBLISHED PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE
MAKING OF THE *STAR WARS* PREQUELS!

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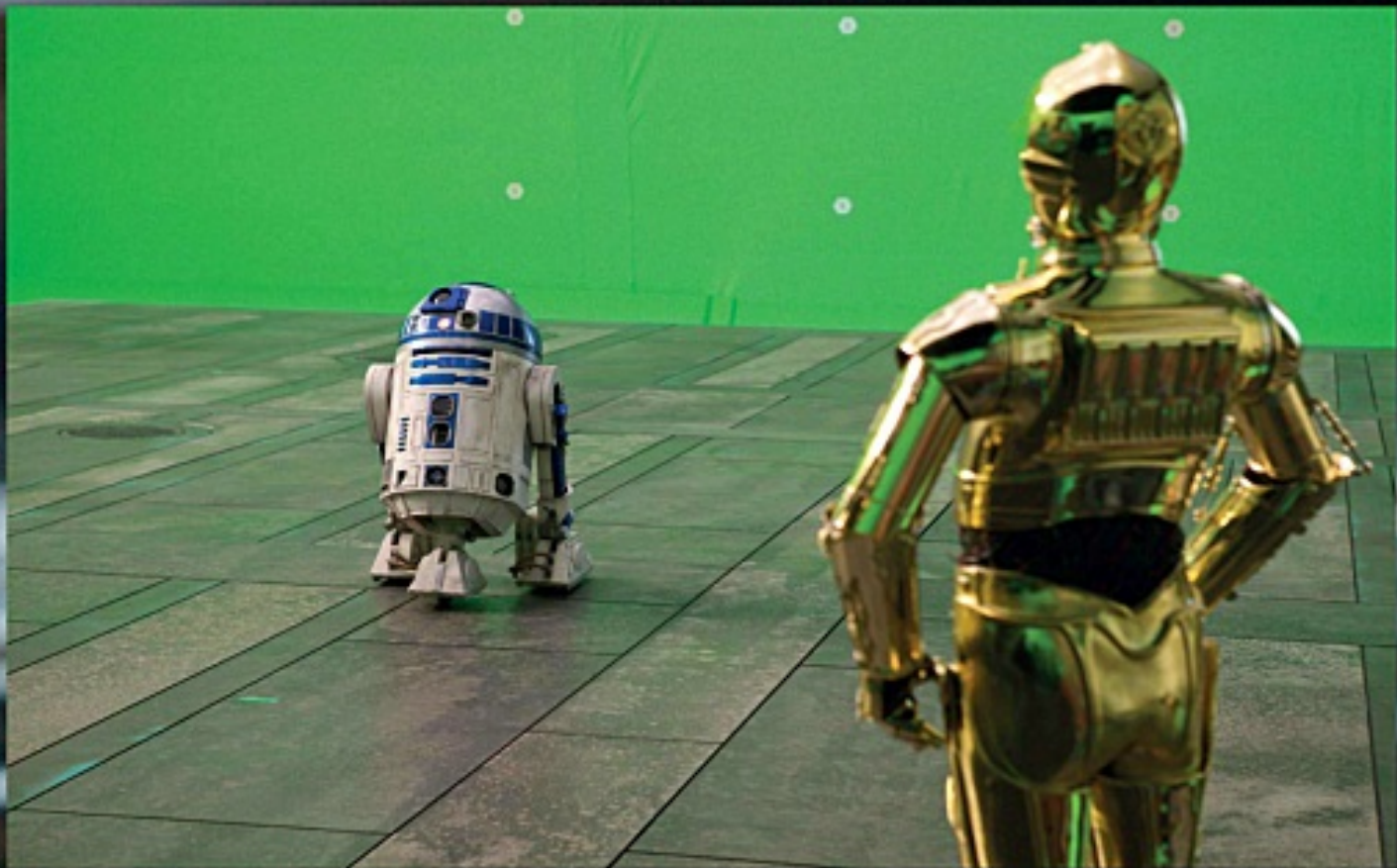
▲ Samuel L. Jackson (Mace Windu) shares a lighter moment on set as he shoots Windu's final moments.
(Photo by Merrick Manton, Episode III, July 18, 2003)

▶ Guards on parade! The Chancellor's finest march across the greenscreen set at Fox Studios, Australia.
(Photo by Merrick Manton, Episode III, July 22, 2003)









▲ R2-D2 and C-3PO (Anthony Daniels) shoot on the greenscreen set at Fox Studios, Australia (Photo by Merrick Morton, Episode III, July 23, 2003)



◀ Hayden Christensen (Anakin Skywalker) takes a moment to contemplate on the Supreme Chancellor Palpatine's office set, Fox Studios, Australia (Photo by Merrick Morton, Episode III, July 16, 2003)

▼ Anthony Daniels (C-3PO) lines up an effects shot on the Blockade Runner set. (Photo by Merrick Morton, Episode III, July 25, 2003)



▼ David Bowers (Mas Amedda), Ian McDiarmid (Darth Sidious), and Sandi Finley (Sly Moore) act evil in a Senate pod. (Photo by Merrick Morton, Episode III, July 29, 2003)



♥ Sandi Finlay (Sly Moore) poses on the Fox Studios set.
(Photo by Merrick Morten, Episode III, July 18, 2003)



A border of various LEGO Star Wars minifigures surrounds the central text. The figures include characters like Chewbacca, R2-D2, Yoda, and various Stormtroopers, among others.

15

**THINGS YOU
NEVER
KNEW ABOUT
LEGO *STAR WARS*!**

IT'S 15 YEARS SINCE
LEGO *STAR WARS* LAUNCHED
A FRANCHISE THAT NOW SPANS
TOYS, VIDEOGAMES, TV SPECIALS,
AND MORE. *INSIDER* HAS BUILT
A COLLECTION OF 15 INCREDIBLE,
BUT TRUE, FACTS ABOUT THE
SPIN-OFF THAT HAS CAPTURED THE
HEARTS OF A GENERATION!
WORDS: JAMES BURNS

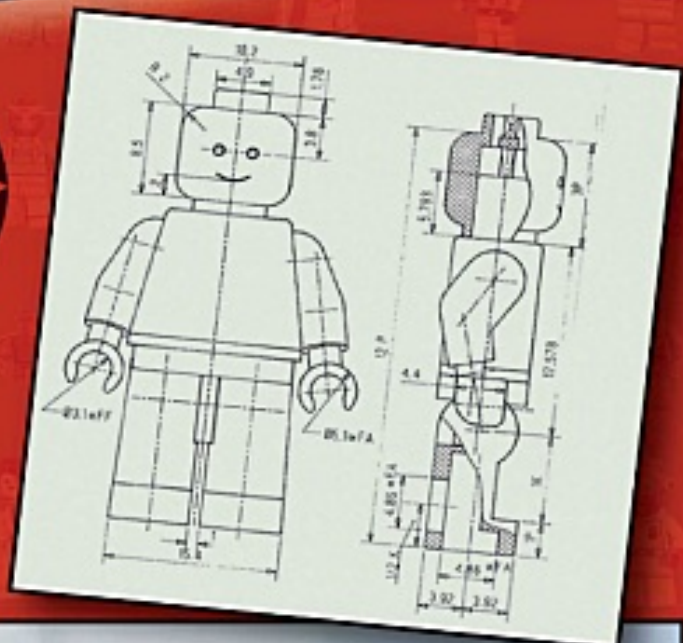


1 In 1999, LEGO Star Wars became the toy company's first ever licensed theme set. It was originally licensed until 2008, but has been extended several times—first until 2011, then 2016, and in 2012 (at the New York Toy Fair) the license was extended until 2022.

2 By the end of 2014 there will have been over 350 commercially released LEGO Star Wars sets and almost 600 LEGO Star Wars minifigures.

3 A minifigure stands exactly four LEGO bricks high, without a hat or hair piece. LEGO designers chose the color yellow to best represent all races and ethnicities. It's estimated that 12 minifigures are produced every second.

4 There's been 61 different clone troopers, but the unique character with the most number of variants is Luke Skywalker with 28 minifigures! There's also been 25 different versions of astromech droids, 21 different battle droids, 20 Han Solos (including young Han Solo from *The Yoda Chronicles*), and 19 Anakins (excluding Darth Vader minifigures).



5

In 2005, to coincide with the release of *Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith*, the faces of LEGO Star Wars minifigures changed from yellow to flesh colored (following the change for NBA figures made a couple of years earlier).



6

2005 also saw the release of the first ever LEGO Star Wars videogame, based on the prequels, which was followed by three hit sequels.



7

Boba Fett from the LEGO Star Wars Cloud City set (#10123) is one of the rarest and most collectable minifigures ever created. This set in mint, unopened condition commands prices in excess of \$1,500 (when first released in 2003 it cost just \$100).



9

2007 saw the release of LEGO Star Wars Maquettes sculpted by the artisans at Gentle Giant Ltd.; these featured characters such as Darth Vader, stormtrooper, Boba Fett, Luke Skywalker X-wing pilot, and the Blackhole Stormtrooper (released as a Japanese exclusive at the Blister Show in June and limited to just 500 pieces). Darth Vader and stormtrooper (available only from StarWarsShop.com) were both limited to 1,000 of each and the first 100 came with an extra chase head of Anakin Skywalker and Han Solo, respectively.



8

In 2007, LEGO created 10,000 Gold Chrome C-3PO minifigures to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Star Wars, as well as two 14-carat gold versions.



10

The largest ever commercially available LEGO Star Wars set was the Millennium Falcon (#10179), released in 2007 and containing 5,195 pieces (and just five minifigures). It is the second largest LEGO set released commercially (after the Taj Mahal with 5,922 pieces).





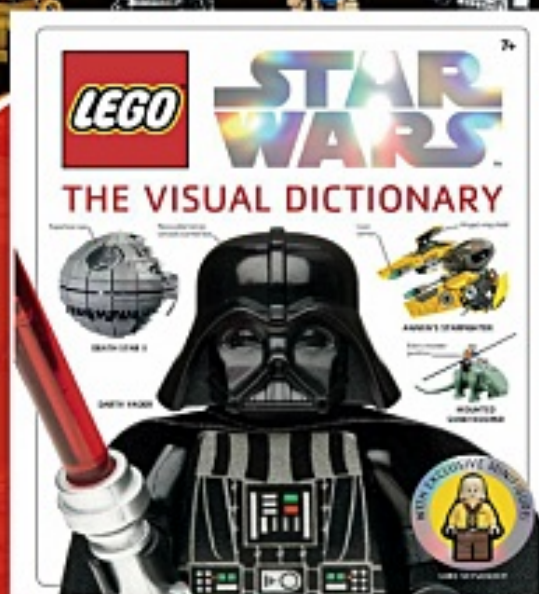
11

The LEGO Star Wars set with the most minifigures released was in 2008 and was the Death Star (#10188), with 24 minifigures, including Luke Skywalker (stormtrooper), Luke Skywalker (Tatooine), Luke Skywalker (Jedi Knight), Han Solo (stormtrooper), Han Solo, Chewbacca, 2 x Imperial trooper, Darth Vader, Princess Leia, 2 x stormtrooper, Ben Kenobi, Emperor Palpatine, C-3PO, R2-D2, R2-Q5, Grand Moff Tarkin, 2 x Emperor's Royal Guard, assassin droid, MSE-6, interrogation droid, and an Imperial protocol droid.

12

The smallest set with a minifigure released to date (apart from single minifigures) is the Battle Droid on STAP (#30004), which was a polybag released in 2009 and contains just 28 pieces. The Mini TIE Fighter from 2002 (#3219) contained just 10 pieces.





13

2009 saw LEGO Star Wars celebrate its 10th anniversary using the slogan "DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE FORCE OF THE BRICK." To celebrate the anniversary, Dorling Kindersley released *LEGO Star Wars: The Visual Dictionary*, which went on to sell over 2 million copies and was #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list for over a year. The book came with an exclusive minifigure of Luke Skywalker with Medal of Yavin. The new revised and updated version of the book is out now to celebrate the 15th anniversary of LEGO Star Wars and features a retro version of Luke Skywalker from Tatooine with yellow face and hands.

14

The largest model ever built by LEGO was the life-size X-wing that was revealed in Times Square, New York, in May 2013. It took 32 master builders, 5 million LEGO bricks, and over 17,000 hours (over four months) to complete. The model weighs nearly 46,000 pounds, stands 11 feet tall and 43 feet long, with a wingspan of 44 feet. The model now resides at LEGOLAND California Resort. The life-sized X-wing is a one-to-one replica of LEGO Star Wars set #9493, being 42 times the size of the retail building set.



15

In 2010, Sophia Heesch appeared on the German show *Wetten Dass (Wanna Bet?)* and identified various LEGO Star Wars figures while wearing a blindfold. Not one to do things the easy way, she did this by sticking them in her mouth and rolling her tongue over them!

Sophia claimed she could recognize 80 characters by using this unusual method. She managed to identify four out of five characters, naming Han Solo, Princess Leia, an ASP droid, and Yoda! However, in a dramatic reversal, it was a snowtrooper that had her licked!



STAR WARS INSIDER PRESENTS CONFESSIONS!

THE FOLLOWING BEHIND-THE-SCENES QUOTES CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE *STAR WARS* CAST AND CREW, BUT CAN YOU GUESS WHO? COMPILED BY JAKE DEVINE



1

"First they covered every part of me in Vaseline and then cling-film. Then they slopped plaster all over me. It was a rather disgusting experience."

2

"At one stage I actually knocked Alec Guinness flying! We had to come up close and cross swords. As I'm quite a large fellow, he lost his balance and came a cropper. All the crew went dashing over to pick him up. He's such a nice gentleman, he actually apologized for falling over!"

3

"Me in a movie with Alec Guinness! I thought, *If he laughs at me just once, I'll pack my bags and go home!*"

4

"I was told that they only had one costume. I always say that if I hadn't fit the costume, I wouldn't have gotten the part. It was as simple as that."

"Mark Hamill was a really nice chap. He bought me all the toys I wanted!"

5

"It was making film history as the first all digitally animated character in a live-action movie. To set the template for that was the most exciting thing for me."

6

"He's charming, smiling, out for the good of the universe, and its community. But underneath there lurks a monster, so it was very easy to build the character; I just looked in the newspapers!"

7



"I really want to play Princess Leia. Stick some big pastries on my head. Now that *would* be interesting."

8

"Imagine if we took the time on *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* to explain what happens to Ben Quadinaros after the Boonta Eve Classic—well, the sad thing is, I can!"

9

"I would go crazy, go mental, lock myself in a cabin, you know. I'd do the whole 'method' thing for two or three months, spear-fishing and stuff, just to play the character again."

10

Now go to page 98 to check the answers!

DIGITAL

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and graphic novels available for download!**

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"THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF..."

WORDS: NEIL EDWARDS

INT. LARS HOMESTEAD—DINING AREA

LUKE: I think those new droids are going to work out fine. In fact, I, uh, was also thinking about our agreement about my staying on another season. And if these new droids do work out, I want to transmit my application to the Academy this year.

Owen's face becomes a scowl, although he tries to suppress it.

OWEN: You mean the next semester before harvest?

LUKE: Sure. There's more than enough droids.

OWEN: Harvest is when I need you most. It's only one season more. This year we'll make enough on the harvest that I'll be able to hire some more hands. And then you can go to the Academy next year. You must understand I need you here, Luke.

LUKE: But it's a whole 'nother year.

OWEN: Look, it's only one more season.

Luke pushes his half-eaten plate of food aside and stands.

LUKE: Yeah, that's what you said last year when Biggs and Tank left.

AUNT BERU: Where are you going?

LUKE: It looks like I'm going nowhere. I have to go finish cleaning those droids.

Resigned to his fate, Luke pads out of the room.

AUNT BERU: Owen, he can't stay here forever. Most of his friends have gone. It means so much to him.

OWEN: I'll make it up to him next year, I promise.

AUNT BERU: Luke's just not a farmer, Owen. He has too much of his father in him.

OWEN: That's what I'm afraid of.

WHY IT'S A CLASSIC

When most of us first saw this scene, we probably empathized with Luke's yearning for adventure and thought Owen was just being a grumpy old man. Looking back on the scene bearing in mind what we know now, however, we can see why Owen wasn't entirely wrong to want to keep Luke on the farm. He must have had his own suspicions as to what occurred at the Tusken Raider camp, and was no doubt afraid that Luke would end up the same way. It's clear however that Owen is fighting a losing battle, faced with the combination of Luke's wanderlust and his wife's maternal sympathy for their nephew. Fate plays a huge part in the *Star Wars* movies—Luke is fated not to be a farmer as he shares his father's thirst for adventure; Owen and Beru are fated to be the innocent victims whose deaths will spur Luke on to fight the Empire. The galaxy has something to thank Owen Lars for, however. What might

have happened if Luke had been allowed to go off to the Imperial Academy before the events of *A New Hope*? Would Darth Vader have eventually detected the Force-sensitive Luke within the Imperial ranks and drawn him into the ways of the dark side? Thanks to Owen's stubborn streak, that didn't happen.

WHAT THEY SAID

"Uncle Owen was a straight-forward curmudgeon—which I am anyway, so it was easy for me to play. I've been a curmudgeon a long time." —Phil Brown (Uncle Owen), *Star Wars Insider Special Edition*, 2011

ESSENTIAL TRIVIA

The real-life site of the Lars Homestead in Nefta, Tunisia, was saved from decay and restored by a fan campaign in 2012.

EXPANDED UNIVERSE

In the story "When the Desert Wind Turns: The Stormtrooper's Tale" from the *Tales From the Mos Eisley Cantina* short story anthology (published in 1995), it was revealed that Darth Vader himself ordered and watched the deaths of Owen and Beru Lars via Hololink as punishment for their perceived "weakness."

Ordering the brutal deaths of members of his own extended family, who had raised his own son, surely counts among the former Anakin Skywalker's coldest acts.

NEXT ISSUE:
"I'M THE NEW
PADAWAN LEARNER.
I'M AHSOKA TANO."

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Storyboards: The Original
Trilogy, and more!

76 COMICS

The Empire crashes
Princess Leia's wedding!

84 BANTHA TRACKS

By the fans, for the fans!

94 BOUNTY HUNTERS

Meet the stars, show the
evidence win the bounty!

78 INCOMING JANGO UNCHAINED!

THE ULTIMATE
BOUNTY HUNTER
REVEALED

"THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A GOOD BLASTER AT YOUR SIDE, KID."



BOOKS

THE LATEST AND GREATEST *STAR WARS* TALES HEADING YOUR WAY! WORDS: DAN WALLACE

A WINDOW ON CREATION

Rare Production Art is Yours in *Star Wars Storyboards: The Original Trilogy*

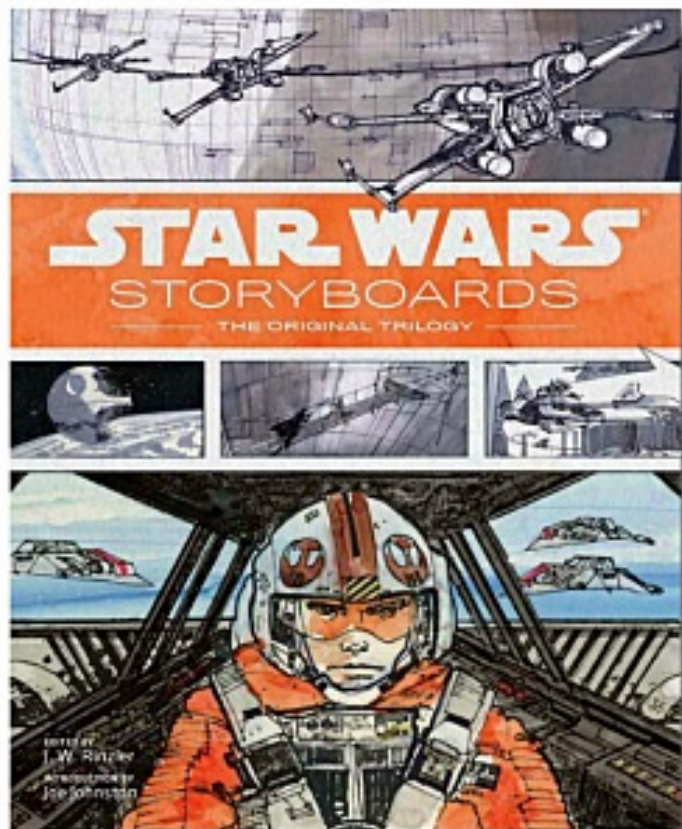
It's like owning a piece of the Lucasfilm Archives. For the first time, the best of the storyboards created for the films of the classic *Star Wars* trilogy are being made available in a high-quality art book with the release of *Star Wars Storyboards: The Original Trilogy*.

The 352-page hardcover features more than 1,200 illustrations taken from the behind-the-scenes development of *Star Wars*: Episode IV *A New Hope*, Episode V: *The Empire Strikes Back*, and Episode VI: *Return of the Jedi*, including never-before published looks at unproduced and deleted scenes.

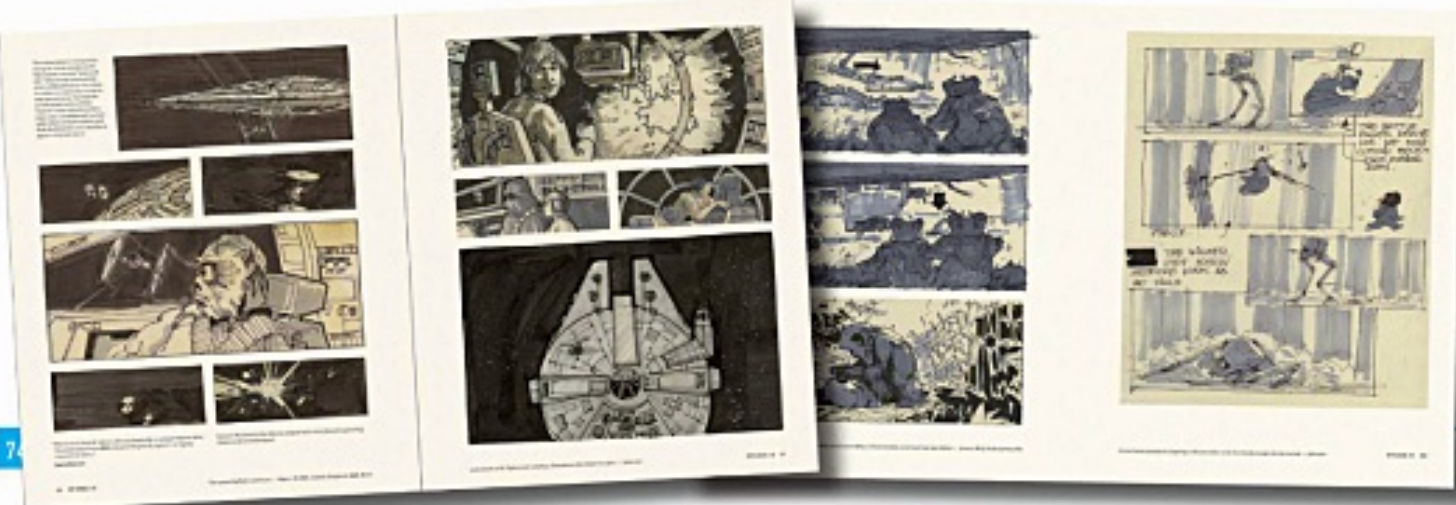
Edited by Lucasfilm's J. W. Rinzler, the book features a full set of storyboards by Joe Johnston, early *A New Hope* boards by Alex Tavoularis and early *Empire* boards by Ivor Beddoes, and a rare set of *Return of the Jedi* boards by Roy Carnon. In addition, readers can take in Ralph McQuarrie's previously unseen storyboards for *The Empire Strikes Back*, with additional contributions from ILM's Nilo Rodis-Jamero, George Jenson, Dave Carson, Paul Huston, Gary Myers, and Ronnie Shepherd.

Star Wars Storyboards: The Original Trilogy arranges its visual information according to the story of the films, combining boards from different artists and presenting differing versions of sequences. The final product allows fans to see how these cinema masterpieces took shape, starting with thumbnail sketches and other humble conceptual beginnings.

The book features a foreword by ILM art director Joe Johnston (who went on to direct *Jumanji* and *Captain America: The First Avenger*) and an introduction by Nilo Rodis-Jamero, assistant art

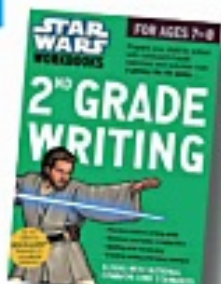


director of visual effects for *The Empire Strikes Back* and costume designer for *Return of the Jedi*. *Star Wars Storyboards: The Original Trilogy* goes on sale May 13 and is the follow-up to *Star Wars Storyboards—The Prequel Trilogy*.



THE FORCE IS STRONG WITH THIS SERIES

Help Young Padawans Get a Head Start on Learning With *Star Wars Workbooks*



If there's one universal truth of childhood, it's that kids love *Star Wars*. Workman Publishing is putting this passion to good use with its new line of educational materials launching in June.

The *Star Wars Workbooks* series kicks off with 12 books written for students from Pre-K through 2nd Grade. The material has been designed for accessible fun by the editors of the Brain Quest series, while aligning with national Common Core Standards.

Characters like Obi-Wan Kenobi, Luke Skywalker, R2-D2, Darth Maul, and Chewbacca take kids through subjects including mathematics, language arts, pattern recognition, and reading comprehension. Some workbooks include interactive extras such

as *Star Wars* finger puppets.

Whether it's counting clone troopers and X-wing fighters to learn numbers, calculating the number of lightsabers in Yoda's hands to determine simple sums, or diving into an easy-to-understand "A is for Anakin" approach to phonics, the *Star Wars Workbook* series will bring reluctant learners over to the light side of the Force.



GALAXIES ON-THE-GO



Star Wars Goes Mobile With a New App From Disney Publishing

From Disney Publishing Worldwide and Lucasfilm comes *Star Wars Journeys: The Phantom Menace*—a story-and activity-based app that brings the *Star Wars* galaxy into the hands of fans new and old. The adventure comes to life in the palm of your hand through interactive art, story narration, and animated scenes. Focusing on the events, characters, and settings seen in Episode I of the movie saga, *Star Wars Journeys: The Phantom Menace* gives newcomers an easy jumping-on point to the *Star Wars* universe and provides a deeper, multi-layered experience for seasoned movie watchers.

To complete the story, users will progress through animated, interactive 180-degree pages, encountering characters from the film such as Qui-Gon Jinn, Obi-Wan Kenobi, and Anakin Skywalker. A fast-paced podracing activity is modeled after the fateful Boonta Eve Classic on Tatooine and provides high-energy fun to encourage the reader's journey.

Among the many features packed into the app:

- Animated key scenes from *The Phantom Menace*
- 180-degree tappable and interactive pages
- "Infinite Zoom" transition between each scene
- Podracer racing and customization activity
- Hidden and unlockable profiles featuring characters, vehicles, and locations from the film
- Scene exploration and profile unlocks to earn credits
- *Star Wars Journeys: The Phantom Menace* is available for iOS devices in the Entertainment and Kids categories in the App Store.



R2, BRUTE?

William Shakespeare Goes *Star Wars* Once More into the Breach in *The Jedi Doth Return*

Both *William Shakespeare's Star Wars* and *The Empire Striketh Back* have been breakout hits for Quirk Books, with their serious yet playful takes on the premise, "What if the *Star Wars* movies had been written in Elizabethan times?" It was inevitable that the complete trilogy would get the Shakespeare treatment, and *The Jedi Doth Return* is scheduled to wrap things up this July.

Writer Ian Doescher has a B.A. in Music from Yale University, a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School, and a Ph.D. in Ethics from Union Theological Seminary—but most importantly he has a flawless gift for iambic pentameter and a boundless passion for the galaxy far, far away. As Doescher begins his tale, Han Solo is entombed in carbonite, the Rebel Alliance besieged, and Jabba the Hutt engorged. Alack!

Attend as Luke Skywalker and his rebel band seek fresh allies in their quest to thwart a new Imperial Death Star. Cry "Ewok" and let slip the gundarks of war!





COMICS //

THE VERY BEST *STAR WARS* COMIC BOOKS HEADED YOUR WAY! WORDS: DAN WALLACE

WEDDING DAY WARFARE

The Empire Crashes Leia's Big Day in the Newest *Star Wars* Story

The ongoing *Star Wars* series by writer Brian Wood has brought the saga back to its classic roots, with tales set shortly after the destruction of the first Death Star that feature old friends such as Leia, Luke, and Han.

Issue #18 of the series, featuring artwork by Stéphane Créty and a cover by Victor Manuel Leza, is on sale June 11. As it opens, Princess Leia has agreed to enter into marriage with Prince Kaspar of the Arrochar. Mon Mothma believes the wedding is a necessary political maneuver to ensure the survival of the Rebellion by securing a safe haven. The Rebel Alliance, in limbo after evacuating their base on Yavin (but not yet prepared to set up shop on frozen Hoth), is already setting down roots in the Arrochar system.

But Darth Vader isn't about to let the rebels slip away again. Vader desperately wants to bring the hammer down on Arrochar and its high-value targets, but Emperor Palpatine has other plans. As punishment for Vader's failures, Palpatine gloatingly keeps Vader from the front lines, leaving it to a Star Destroyer fleet to deliver justice to the assembled rebels.

When a double-cross goes down and a deal with the Empire is struck, Imperial banners unfurl across the walls of the Arrochar royal palace. X-wing fighters scramble and the skies explode with combat as Wedge Antilles and Rogue Squadron hold the line. Han, Chewie, and Luke storm the palace, but it's Leia and Mon Mothma who stay in the thick of things to initiate a heavy-hitting counterattack.

The Imperial fleet might think it has the upper hand, but as the issue unfolds readers will learn that a cornered rebel is a deadly rebel.



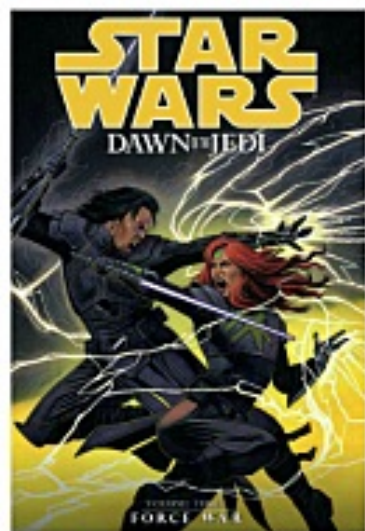
LAST STAND OF THE JE'DAI

The Rakata Invade Tython in
Star Wars: Dawn of the Jedi
Volume 3—Force War

Since the start of its run, the *Dawn of the Jedi* series has established foundational chunks of *Star Wars* Expanded Universe history. It's set more than 25,000 years before the movies and chronicles the origins of the Force-using Je'dai, while setting the stage for a clash against evil coming from beyond the Je'dai homeworld of Tython. With *Force War*, the battle has finally arrived.

Alien invaders called the Rakata thrive on the dark side of the Force and are vastly more advanced than the relatively primitive inhabitants of the Tython system. When the Rakata arrive in full force to kill or enslave every living thing on Tython, the Je'dai take up arms to defend their people.

They'll need everything they've got, from their new Forcesaber weapons to their experienced field commanders—the mad Je'dai Daegen Lok and the mysterious "Force Hound" Xesh, a former slave of the



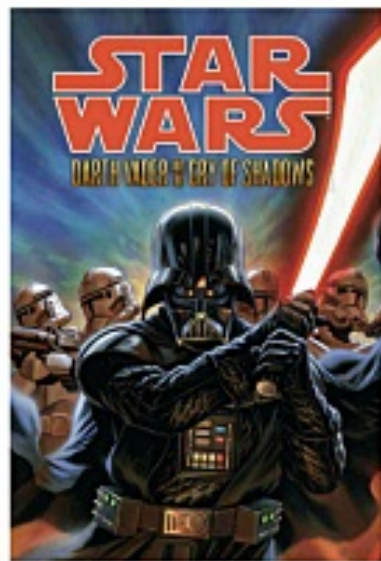
Rakata. But when Xesh becomes a captive, the entire direction of the Force War suddenly changes. The *Dawn of the Jedi* Volume 3—Force War trade paperback reprints issues #1-5 of the Force War miniseries. Written by John Ostrander with art by Jan Duursema and a cover by David Michael Beck, the 128-page collection goes on sale June 11.

SHADOW GAMES

Vader and an Ex-Clone Trooper Make an Unlikely Pair in the *Darth Vader and the Cry of Shadows* Hardcover Collection

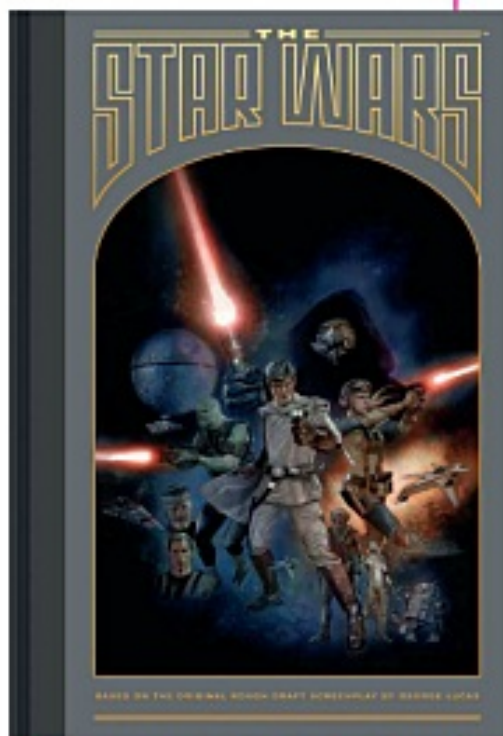
The clone troopers of the Republic were grown for combat. So what happens when there's no war left to fight? That's the question that launches *Darth Vader and the Cry of Shadows*, after a single clone trooper is left for dead during the Clone Wars and comes to hate the Jedi he believes abandoned him to his fate.

Years pass, but the trooper never stops thinking of revenge—until he catches word of Darth Vader, the unstoppable commander of the new Galactic Empire. In Vader, the trooper hopes to regain the honor he thought he lost, and by serving the Dark Lord he plans to continue the fight he had abandoned long ago.



But earning Vader's respect will prove much harder than he bargained for.

Written by Tim Siedell with art by Gabriel Guzman and a cover by Felipe Massafera, the hardcover collection reprints the original five-issue miniseries in a 120-page volume. *Darth Vader and the Cry of Shadows* goes on sale July 2.



ALT-HISTORY ADVENTURES

See the *Star Wars* That Never Was in a New Hardcover Collection

The *Star Wars* is the official comics adaptation of George Lucas's original rough draft screenplay, written in 1974 and containing a host of fascinating alternative concepts. This is the version that never made it to movie screens—but fortunately, it made the jump into comics!

A trade paperback edition goes on sale July 9, collecting all eight issues of the series as does a hardcover edition that includes issue #0; and a deluxe over-sized edition will contain the entire saga—plus a cover portfolio—in three special, foil-stamped hardcover volumes. Working from George Lucas's story, Lucasfilm's J. W. Rinzler adapted *The Star Wars* into the comics medium, while artist Mike Mayhew brought space battles, alien creatures, and teenage princesses to vivid life. The collection features a cover by Nick Runge. Longtime fans will find *The Star Wars* both familiar and surprising; younger fans will love the sheer adventure of it! Grab your laserswords and return to the galaxy far, far away—for the very first time!



INCOMING

THE LATEST STAR WARS GEAR YOU'LL WANT TO ADD TO YOUR COLLECTION! WORDS: JAMES BURNS

GENTLE GIANT

DARTH VADER LIFE-SIZED VINTAGE MONUMENT

Gentle Giant brings us the latest addition to its line of popular monuments with a life-sized Kenner-inspired Darth Vader Monument. Darth Vader has been digitally scanned from an original mint-condition 3 1/2" action figure and reproduced to a staggering 6' 9" tall. This fully articulated monument also includes an authentic extending lightsaber and vinyl cape.

A stunning centerpiece for any collector's display, this limited edition hand-painted monument includes a certificate of authenticity. Available: Q1 2015 Price: \$2,600



EZRA AND CHOPPER MAQUETTE

Continuing their tradition of producing amazing looking Star Wars maquettes, Gentle Giant now gives the highly anticipated new animated series *Star Wars Rebels* the same treatment. Gentle Giant Ltd. is proud to bring you Ezra and Chopper. Each hand-painted piece has been cast in high-quality polystone and comes individually numbered with a matching certificate of authenticity. Available: Q1 2015 Price: \$120



SIDESHOW COLLECTIBLES

JANGO FETT SIXTH SCALE FIGURE

Sideshow Collectibles continues its range of sixth scale figures with Jango Fett, who comes outfitted with his detailed durasteel costume and armor. He also has all of the items he needs, including WESTAR-34 blaster pistols with flare and smoke attachment options; a helmet with an articulated range finder; poncho; Merr-Sonn JT-12 and Z-6 Jetpacks; multiple switch-out hands; Kamino saberdart; and much more! An exclusive edition comes with a unique portrait with pilot headgear. Available: 2015 Price: \$219.99





**MOST
WANTED**

BOBA FETT LIFE-SIZED FIGURE

Sideshow Collectibles are bringing the infamous bounty hunter Boba Fett to life, quite literally as an incredible life-sized figure!

Standing over 6 feet in height, the Mandalorian has had his on-screen costume, helmet, weapon, and armor re-created in exacting detail. He has a light-up chest feature, moveable range finder, Wookiee braids, cape, fabric costume jumpsuit, articulated head and —so much more!

Available: 2015 Price: TBD

DIAMOND

DIAMOND SELECT TOYS SPIRIT YODA VINYL BANK

Diamond Select Toys will be attending San Diego Comic-Con International (SDCC) in July and will be taking a selection of its barware, vinyl banks, and other items for exhibition and purchase! There will be an exclusive vinyl bank available at the convention featuring Spirit Yoda from *Return of the Jedi*, which stands 7" high. A limited quantity will be available at Diamond Select Toys booth (#2607) and other booths around the convention floor.
Available: SDCC
July Price: TBD



HALLMARK

WAMPA KEEPSAKE ORNAMENT

Hallmark will be attending two of the USA's largest pop culture conventions with keepsake ornaments designed exclusively for San Diego Comic-Con International in July, and New York Comic Con (NYCC), set for October 9-12.

Three event-exclusive ornament designs will be available, one of which is *Star Wars*-related and features a wampa from *The Empire Strikes Back*. It will be sold in limited quantities at both conventions.

Available: July at SDCC, October at NYCC
Price: TBD



LAKELAND

As one of the UK's home-shopping pioneers, with nearly half a century of experience under their belts, Lakeland offers an unrivalled collection of creative kitchenware, practical ideas for the home and garden, and inspiring gifts from all over the world.

Lakeland now has an exclusive range of 14 new *Star Wars* products, including flexible cake molds made from non-stick silicone that will easily realize your creations when they're ready for decoration. Large designs include R2-D2 (or any other astromech of your choice) and the *Millennium Falcon*. Three separate cake-pan sets make four cakes each and offer iconic Ships (X-wing starfighter, *Millennium Falcon*, the Death Star, and an Imperial Star Destroyer), Heroes (C-3PO, R2-D2, Yoda, and Chewbacca) and Villains (Darth Vader, Boba Fett, a stormtrooper, and Darth Maul).

Prices: From £4.99 to £16.99 (Shipping Available Worldwide)





Lightsaber Ice Lolly molds come as a two-pack. The clever silicone sleeves with plastic inserts allow you to freeze the liquid and then slot them onto the handles for a swift duel... but be quick before they melt!



There are three sets of Cookie Cutter available, each making four cookies, featuring Ships (Millennium Falcon, Death Star, X-wing starfighter and Darth Vader's TIE fighter), Heroes (R2-D2, C-3PO, Yoda, and Chewbacca) and Villains (Darth Maul, a stormtrooper, Darth Vader, and Boba Fett).



If you want to keep your drinks as cool as the planet Hoth then these Jumbo Ice Cube Trays may offer the perfect solution. There are two sets that each makes four ice cubes: Ships (AT-AT walker, Millennium Falcon, Imperial Destroyer and Death Star) and Characters (stormtrooper, Darth Vader, R2-D2, and C-3PO).



The Cupcake Dusting Shields enable you to easily dust designs onto cupcakes or perhaps some chocolate onto a coffee! There are six designs in the pack, featuring Yoda, the Star Wars logo, R2-D2, C-3PO, stormtrooper, and Darth Vader.

Everybody loves chocolate and now you have your choice of the dark or light side, as either plain or milk chocolate will work with the two different sets of Chocolate Molds. Both sets make 12 chocolates and, as you'd expect, there's Heroes (two each of Yoda, C-3PO, Millennium Falcon, R2-D2, Chewbacca and Jar Jar Binks) and Villains (2 each of Darth Vader, stormtrooper, Death Star, Darth Maul, Boba Fett, and AT-AT walker) which can be used to decorate cakes, to share with your friends, or eat alone.



Official Pix has been providing more authentic autographs to fans than any other provider worldwide since 2001.

Available now are a variety of new autographs from Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett, Original Trilogy), Jim Cummings (Hondo Ohnaka, *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*), Jennifer Hale (Aayla Secura, *The Clone Wars*), Phil LaMarr (Kit Fisto and Bail Organa, *The Clone Wars*) and Carrie Fisher & Peter Mayhew (Princess Leia & Chewbacca, Original Trilogy).

Prices: From \$29.99 to \$99.99 Available: Now



CUMMING5-01 Jim Cummings signed 8x10 Hondo Ohnaka photo
\$29.99



CUMMING5-02 Jim Cummings signed 8x10 Hondo Ohnaka photo
\$29.99



BULLOCH-011 Jeremy Bulloch signed 11x14 Boba Fett photo



HALE-01 Jennifer Hale signed 8x10 Aayla Secura photo



HALE-02 Jennifer Hale signed 8x10 Aayla Secura photo



LAMARR-01 Phil LaMarr signed 8x10 Kit Fisto photo



LAMARR-02 Phil LaMarr signed 8x10 Kit Fisto photo



LAMARR-03 Phil LaMarr signed 8x10 Kit Fisto photo



LAMARR-04 Phil LaMarr signed 8x10 Bail Organa photo



MULTI-023 Carrie Fisher & Peter Mayhew dual-signed black & white Metallix 11x14 behind-the-scenes photo

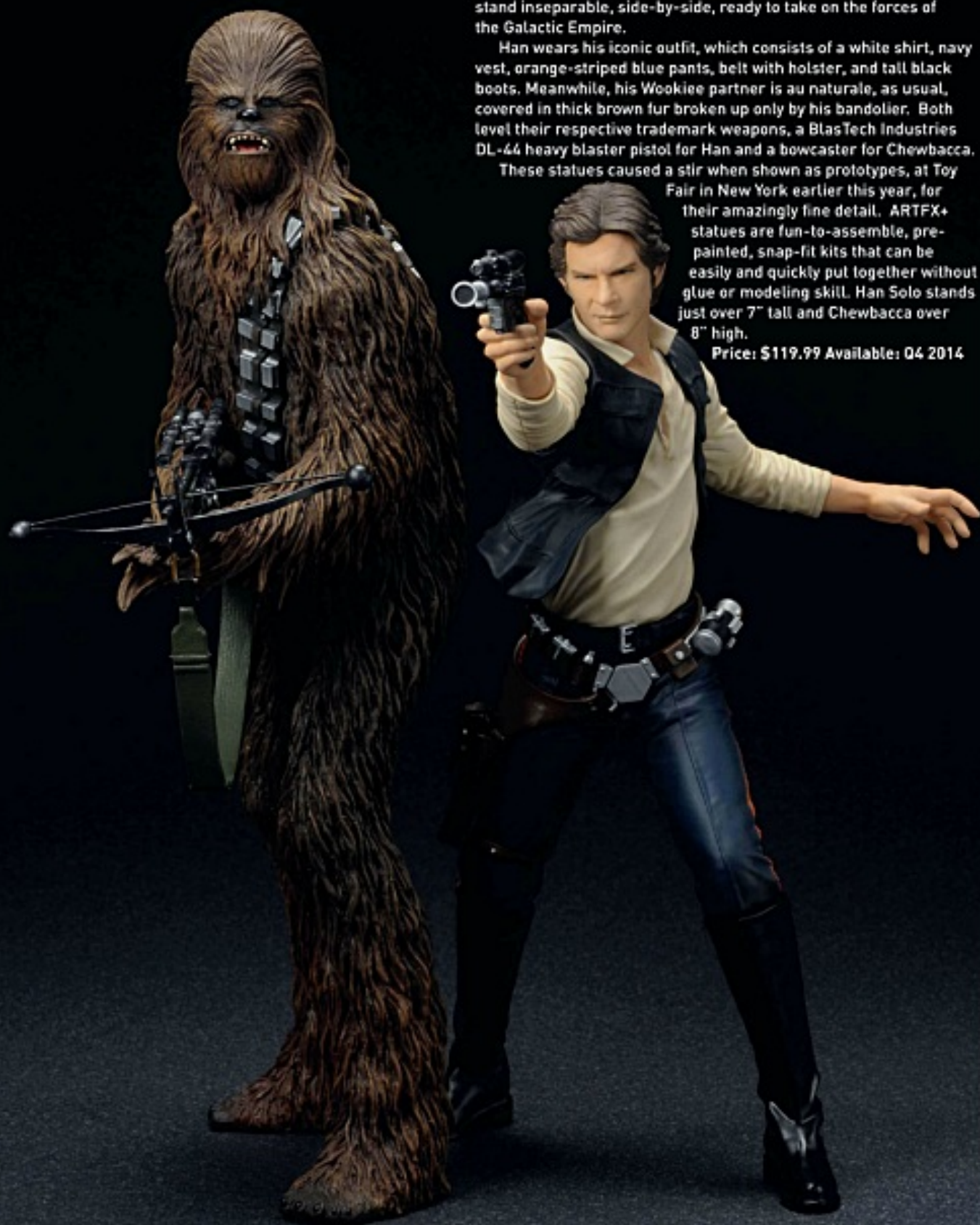
HAN SOLO AND CHEWBACCA ARTFX+ STATUE

Jumping straight out of *A New Hope*, Han Solo and Chewbacca stand inseparable, side-by-side, ready to take on the forces of the Galactic Empire.

Han wears his iconic outfit, which consists of a white shirt, navy vest, orange-striped blue pants, belt with holster, and tall black boots. Meanwhile, his Wookiee partner is au naturel, as usual, covered in thick brown fur broken up only by his bandolier. Both level their respective trademark weapons, a BlasTech Industries DL-44 heavy blaster pistol for Han and a bowcaster for Chewbacca.

These statues caused a stir when shown as prototypes, at Toy Fair in New York earlier this year, for their amazingly fine detail. ARTFX+ statues are fun-to-assemble, pre-painted, snap-fit kits that can be easily and quickly put together without glue or modeling skill. Han Solo stands just over 7" tall and Chewbacca over 8" high.

Price: \$119.99 Available: Q4 2014





VOL
83

BANTHA TRACKS

BY THE FANS
FOR THE FANS



CELEBRATING

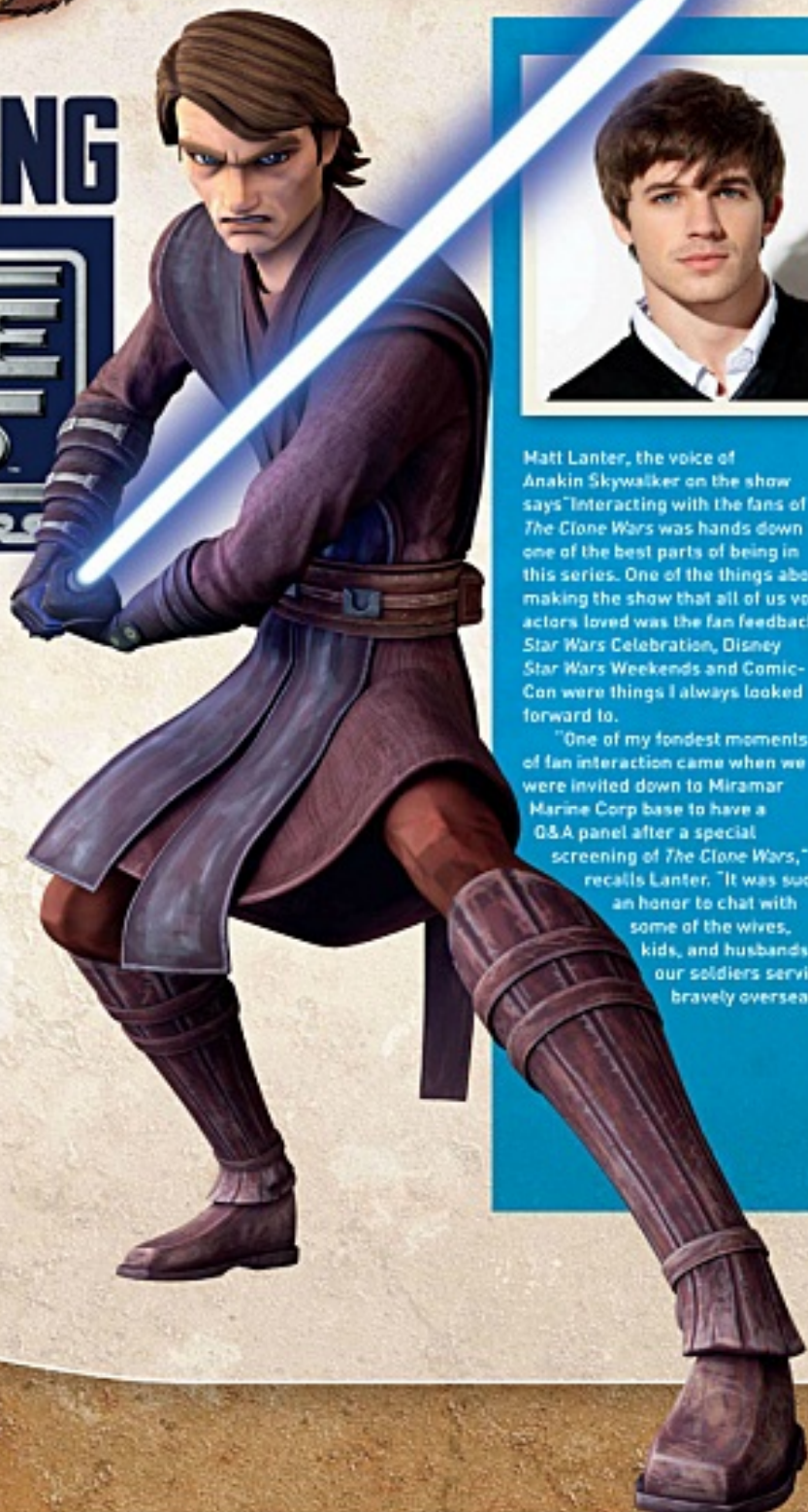


With the long-anticipated episodes from Season Six of *The Clone Wars* now available on Netflix, and with *Star Wars Rebels* coming soon, fans of the *Star Wars* saga are in the midst of exciting times.

To celebrate the legacy of *The Clone Wars*, *Bantha Tracks* reached out to the fan community for their thoughts and memories about the well-loved show, and also to the principal voice actors and the supervising director Dave Filoni, now executive producer of *Rebels*.

What we heard was not a surprise: in addition to loving the series itself, the fans, and the cast and crew, grew very attached to the *Clone Wars* community. What we at *Bantha Tracks* did not anticipate, however, was the sincere, deep love for the series—and for the friends made along the way. Re-occurring themes were affection and respect for the people involved, and excitement for the storylines and deepening themes of the series. The fans found the voice cast extremely talented, and accessible at the same time. The voice cast found the fans devoted, intelligent, and loyal.

Enjoy these *Clone Wars* memories, photographs and stories from fans of the show, coming from both sides of the microphone.



Matt Lanter, the voice of Anakin Skywalker on the show says "Interacting with the fans of *The Clone Wars* was hands down one of the best parts of being in this series. One of the things about making the show that all of us voice actors loved was the fan feedback. *Star Wars Celebration*, *Disney Star Wars Weekends* and *Comic-Con* were things I always looked forward to.

"One of my fondest moments of fan interaction came when we were invited down to Miramar Marine Corp base to have a Q&A panel after a special screening of *The Clone Wars*," recalls Lanter. "It was such an honor to chat with some of the wives, kids, and husbands of our soldiers serving bravely overseas."

GET IN TRACKS!



"As much as I love all aspects of *Star Wars*, I have a special place in my heart for *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* and all of the folks involved," writes fan Dale Tolosa. "With the exception of a handful of the *Star Wars* movie actors, the voice actors from *The Clone Wars* had an overall accessibility to their fans and love for *Star Wars*—it was not just a 'gig' for them." Tolosa purchased a *Clone Wars* lunchbox when the show was in its first season. He sought to have as many of the cast and crew sign it as possible, and his first signature came from supervising director Dave Filoni. "Like Indiana Jones and the Ark, it has since been my 'MacGuffin,'" continues Tolosa, who intends to carry on his quest until he completes the task of getting the signature of every significant player in *The Clone Wars* series. "And if I ultimately run out of room for more autographs, there's still the flask inside!"

Costumer Dakster Sullivan, shown here in Denal clone armor, says she is drawn to *The Clone Wars* costumes because of the style of the characters. So much so, that she made her own clone armor. "Girls in armor rock, right? It really bothered me when Denal got killed by Cad Bane, ironically another one of my costumes," she says.

Rachel Williams, a fan active in the *Star Wars* costuming and community service world writes: "What I absolutely loved most about *The Clone Wars* was how incredibly progressive it was in handling the depiction of war. Most shows aimed at children water the concept of war down and make it very black-and-white. *The Clone Wars* didn't do that. *The Clone Wars* dug deep and showed that there is much more to a war than just 'the good guys fighting the bad guys,'" Williams continues. "They depicted the intense politics surrounding a war; they showed good people fighting for the Separatists and bad people fighting for the Republic. They made our main characters question if what they were doing was, in fact, the right thing. They even went so far as to discuss the incredibly fine line between guerrilla tactics and terrorism. That's huge. I've never seen a TV show, let alone an animated series aimed at a younger audience, depict war in such an honest and mature way."





Photo submitted by John Schlosser.

"I have always been moved to see the passion that Clone Wars fans have for our show and Star Wars in general," says Dee Bradley Baker (left), the voice of Captain Rex and pretty much of the entire clone army, plus other characters on the show.

"First, there are a lot of families that bond around the Star Wars mythology, which provides them a rich, exciting world where good and bad and heroism play out in a seemingly infinitely inventive way. I met lots of father/son clone teams who were very proud of the clone armor they had fashioned," continues Baker. "Also, many 'grown-ups' who really identified with and loved the clones and took great pride in building incredibly detailed and realistic clone armor. Most impressive!" Baker is a veteran of many Star Wars event appearances, including Star Wars Celebrations, Disney Star Wars Weekends, and San Diego Comic-Con.

"It was striking to me that fans always seemed to relate to a specific clone, often Rex, but also other less obvious ones with less screen time," says Baker. "And, man, did they take the clone deaths personally! It wasn't easy saying hello to a kid wearing the armor of a clone I knew would die in the season ahead! I couldn't say anything!"

Baker says he was often moved to see the number of armed service men and women who loved the show, and the clones in particular. "One officer from Afghanistan told me how he got his platoon interested in the Domino Squad clones," recalls Baker. "I also really felt a profound and even sad connection to the clones when performing the Umbara Arc vocals. I don't think it would have affected me nearly as much, had I not met all the armed services fans who love these clones."

"I consider these men and women real heroes and I think there is something uniquely heroic about the clones—for they are human like we are. They are fallible, they are cooperative and competent, but find ways to express their individuality as well. This individual aspect gave the clones a sense of humanity and dignity that I think fans really connected with."

Dee Bradley Baker accepts his honorary membership to the 501st Legion at a season premiere of *The Clone Wars* at Lucasfilm in San Francisco, California. Baker says he began taking the fans' love of *The Clone Wars* much more seriously after he attended conventions and met fans of all ages who loved the show.

"The series was a kind of *Star Wars* for a new generation," he says, "with many of the familiar characters, but deeper storylines and more fleshed-out personalities of many intriguing Jedi and aliens who may have only been glimpsed in the feature films. Right now, I think it is a perhaps the best time to be a *Star Wars* fan with the excitement of new feature films on the way and a fresh new television series as well. The incredible, groundbreaking seasons of *Clone Wars* provided hours and hours of *Star Wars* awesomeness and yet it seems there is more *Star Wars* coming our way! As a lifelong fan of *Star Wars*, I've gotta say I'm thrilled as well!"



Photo submitted by John Schlosser.



↑ Toronto, Ontario, Canada, January 25, 2014: "The Canadian Garrison brought some *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* magic to the Toronto Alzheimer Society at their annual Walk For Memories fundraiser," writes Phil Fraboni of the 501st Legion Canadian Garrison, pictured here in his Rex armor. Also with Fraboni is Mark Vidulin in his Hardcase armor. Photo by Cassandra Fraboni.

↑ "I was lucky to attend the premiere of *The Clone Wars* movie at the Egyptian Theater in Los Angeles, but I have to be honest, I was a bit skeptical," writes fan Dr. Michael Bender. "But, after watching the progression of the series, I quickly became hooked. So hooked in fact that I decided to build a set of Phase 2 Captain Rex armor." Photo by Joel Aron.



Fans around the world love *The Clone Wars*, and many built show-real costumes as members of costuming groups like the 501st and Rebel Legions, Mandalorian Mercs, Jedi Assembly, Dark Empire and more. The costumed fans in the San Francisco Bay Area, however, where the show was produced, were often the first called into action for cast and crew events and premieres. They were on the front lines, so to speak, of *The Clone Wars*.



↑ "To me, *The Clone Wars* was an extension of the prequels," says Elton Hom, who costumes with the Golden Gate Garrison in San Francisco. "The prequels certainly brought renewed interest into *Star Wars* again after so many years." Photo by Pablo Hidalgo.



↑ At WonderCon in 2012, Hom and other clone costumers debuted their Season Four armor. "It was a big hit with all the fans," he recalls.

"My son and I looked forward to watching *The Clone Wars* every week," concludes Hom. "It was our *Star Wars* bonding time. We were certainly disappointed when it was cancelled. But we look forward to what's coming next."



Photo submitted by Joey Kwan of the Golden Gate Garrison.



↑ Photo submitted by John Schlosser. John Schlosser, a member of the Golden Gate Garrison who has costumed regularly as Captain Rex, considers himself an extremely lucky *Star Wars* fan.

"Hearing that *The Clone Wars* was going to end was a very sad day for me," he says. "I had been there from the very start or as it turns out before it all even started, but I'll get to that later."

In 2008, Schlosser was asked to go to Las Vegas to be on stage with other clone costumers, for the announcement of *The Clone Wars* television show.

"I first met Dave Filoni at San Francisco's WonderCon," recalls Schlosser. "We escorted him on stage and he drew me a little sketch that I still have to this day."

Later that same year, Schlosser was on *The Clone Wars* preview special for Cartoon Network as Rex, working with Ashley Eckstein (Ahsoka Tano) and R2-D2. He, as Rex, entertained fans at *The Clone Wars* screenings, at fan conventions, on children's hospital visits, and even portrayed the character on Yahoo's "Ask Chewie" spot and for the *Star Wars* "Ace of Gales" show. He was part of the 501st Legion Honorary Member inductions of Dave Filoni (Supervising Director), Dee Bradley Baker (Captain Rex), James Arnold Taylor (Obi-Wan Kenobi), and Joel Aron (visual effects supervisor).



Schlosser did not know it at the time, but when he posed with a Plo Koon costumer at San Diego Comic-Con in 2005, he was actually posing with the future supervising director of *The Clone Wars*, Dave Filoni. "I was just a fan and had no idea *The Clone Wars* was on the horizon," he states. "What a small galaxy!"

Schlosser has 13 *Star Wars* costumes, and five of them are from *The Clone Wars*, with two more on the way. "I feel very fortunate and lucky to have been able to do all these events in support of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*," he concludes.





↑ "When I first started work on *The Clone Wars*, I knew that the show was going to come to an end at some point," recalls Ashley Eckstein (the voice of Ahsoka Tano), pictured here with fans at a *The Clone Wars* premiere at Lucasfilm in San Francisco. "After all, the *Clone Wars* only lasted for a short period of time between Episode II and Episode III. As an actress, you get used to projects ending and you just move on—it becomes a nice memory and another line on your résumé. I had no idea that being a part of the *Star Wars* community is a lifelong blessing that has no end."



↑ Ashley Eckstein, second from left. Eckstein continues, "Being the voice of Ahsoka Tano has changed my life in so many ways, and the number one thing I'm grateful for is the people I've met. The fans immediately accepted me and my husband with open arms, and we've met so many incredible people. So, to all *Star Wars* fans, I humbly say thank you for everything. Your kindness is the gift that keeps on giving and even though *The Clone Wars* has ended, I can't wait for the fun and exciting times we have ahead."



← When Karen Katich was scheduled to appear at the Jack London Theater in Oakland, California for *The Clone Wars* movie premiere, the sons of one of her friends wanted to join in. Andrew wanted to be a Jedi and Christopher a clone. "Since Christopher was too small to wear actual armor like we do in the 501st, I made him some armor out of cardboard based on the stormtrooper armor I had," writes Katich.



↑ Ricky "Redboy" Torres in his custom Arc trooper armor at the Love and Wishes Christmas Luncheon in Miami Beach, Florida. "I call him Commander Loco," says Torres.

"One of the terrific things about being involved in *The Clone Wars* is getting to meet all the fans," says Tom Kane, the voice of Yoda, the Narrator, and a number of other characters on the show. "Before *Clone Wars* I had never been to even a single Star Wars convention or event. And I must admit, in my head, I had the same stereotypical image of a convention-attending Star Wars fan as other people, who have never been to a con, have."



Kane says that once he started going to conventions and meeting the fans of the show—and sometimes becoming friends with them—he realized how they were people just like him.

"They are teachers and plumbers and policeman and soldiers. They are mothers and fathers, truck drivers, lawyers, doctors, store managers, and CEOs... everything you can imagine," he says.

"They come from every part of the political spectrum, the income spectrum and the education spectrum, but they all have one thing in common that means more to them than almost anything else: *Star Wars*. In that respect, the fans are truly a reflection of us," adds Kane. "All of us."

Kane believes that to everyone who worked on the series, from the producer, director, and voice actors to the artists, animators, and production support staff, *Star Wars* and *The Clone Wars* are far more than just movies and television.

"They are something that lit a fire in our souls," he says. "They turned our imaginations up to eleven. *The Clone Wars* was a phenomenon that will be a part of our dreams, part of our past, our present, and the rest of our lives."



↑ "The *Clone Wars* cast are some of the nicest people I've had the pleasure of getting to know," says Matt Tolosa. "They are open to the fans and appreciative about the feedback and love the fans have for the show."

→ Tolosa, who often costumes as Anakin Skywalker, made a Japor snippet for Cat Taber, who voiced Padmé Amidala in *The Clone Wars*. "She is always so sweet," concludes Tolosa. "She actually wore the snippet to a few *Clone Wars* events!"





↑ "For me, there has always been something magical about *The Clone Wars* and a tremendous part of that magic is undeniably our amazing fans," says Cat Taber, shown here with young fans at a premiere in San Francisco. "From our very first premiere at the Egyptian Theater in Los Angeles, we felt overwhelming love and support. That feeling continued to grow and grow and today still grows despite production of the show ending."



↑ "From Star Wars Celebration to Fan Days, Disney Star Wars Weekends to Comic-Con I have met and been impacted by so many people because of *The Clone Wars*," continues Taber. "One memory that will always stand out for me is of Jacob, a boy who had been ill with cancer, but now is thankfully in remission. Jacob loves *The Clone Wars* and Padmé, and getting to know him and seeing our show bring happiness to him was life-changing. *The Clone Wars* will always be a very special part of my life and the coolest thing is, not a day goes by that I don't hear from a fan telling me it is a special part of their life, too."



↑ At Toronto Comic Con in 2013, Kari Ann and her daughter Shelby MacDonald, attending their first con ever, had the chance to meet their first Star Wars celebrity: Daniel Logan, who played young Boba Fett in *Attack of the Clones*, and voiced the character in *The Clone Wars*.



↑ "Daniel was always courteous and friendly and posed for pictures with us on the show floor," writes Dad Mike MacDonald. "He's an awesome ambassador for Star Wars!"



↑ "Star Wars fans are special and important to me in many ways," says James Arnold Taylor, the voice of Obi-Wan Kenobi and Plo Koon on *The Clone Wars*. "They are not the usual fans who just want an autograph, or a photo to put in a scrapbook, or to sell on eBay. They are looking for a deeper connection because, in my opinion, *Star Wars* goes deeper than other films, TV shows or novels. Most fans of *Star Wars* are emotionally connected to it and its characters, because at some point in time it was there for them when they needed to feel stronger than they were; it made them feel heroic, safe, accepted, comforted."

Taylor refers to the adage "you reap what you sow," and he adds that *Star Wars* fans sow gratefulness. "As performers in *The Clone Wars*, we want to give back thanks to those who thank us," he says. "The circle is indeed complete... but not in a Darth Vader talking to Obi-Wan kind of way!"

Taylor grew up as a fan of the *Star Wars* movies, and says when he was a kid he could only imagine what it would have been like to be a part of something so special. As the voice of Obi-Wan Kenobi for around 12 years, and recently as a stage host at *Star Wars Celebrations* and *Disney Star Wars Weekends*, he now shares the stage with some of these same actors he revered.

"Be it from the advance of our social media or the fact that most actors involved in the *Star Wars* universe are just as much fans as the rest, we now have a bond that brings us all together for the common love of *Star Wars* and its characters," he says. "Why? Because *Star Wars* just makes you feel good!"



"I have experienced so much kindness and love from the fans of *The Clone Wars* specifically, that I know that wherever my career takes me, the one place I will always have a home is at *Star Wars* conventions and events," says Taylor (seen posing with clone troopers and Cad Bane at Lucas Animation's Big Rock facility). "Star Wars fans don't just know you as someone in the public eye, they know about you and your character and they acknowledge our work in kind and giving ways. Social media has allowed a daily dose of thanks and fan insight for me that I am very grateful for, and it's given me the ability to become an ambassador of *Star Wars* in a way I could never have imagined years prior. That's all thanks to the fans!"



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Any original art, envelope art, comics, illustrations, news, stories, meeting information, or any materials voluntarily submitted become the property of *Bantha Tracks*.

No compensation will be given for voluntary submissions, and there is no guarantee of publication. Submissions to *Bantha Tracks* will not be returned.

Each submission must include the creator's name, age, contact details, date the work was created, and a statement that the work is original, and created by the person submitting it.

Send electronic files to banthatracks@starwars.com, or send your snail mail to *Bantha Tracks*, c/o Mary Franklin, P.O. Box 29901, San Francisco, CA 94129



↑ James Arnold Taylor has met thousands of Star Wars fans from all over the world. "They are not just in a costume because they like the films, they're actually paying it forward by doing charity events and bringing that love out to other fans," he says. "That's just awesome! What other franchise can say that? I remember the first time I walked into a room full of stormtroopers, all of which were 501st, and I got chills. It was truly like stepping into the films for me at that moment."

Taylor says some of his fondest memories as an actor involve Star Wars fans. During Star Wars Celebration V in 2010, in Orlando, Taylor and fellow voice actors Dee Bradley Baker and Tom Kane saw the fans sleeping out on the Convention Center sidewalk one night. They were waiting overnight to hear George Lucas be interviewed by Jon Stewart the next day. "We went down together and signed autographs for those fans," recalls Taylor. "We stayed till the wee hours of the morning taking pictures with them and doing voicemails as our characters. Not once did a fan get rude or give an unrealistic request. They were all so grateful and excited to see us and just talk about Star Wars and share their experiences."

"I still to this day get letters from fans that were there that night, thanking me for my time. I want to thank them; it was very cool... even though it was very hot out."

Taylor says he still receives letters and emails, cards and comments from fans who just say thank-you, without asking for anything in return. "Some are funny, some touching, moving, and some extremely emotional," he says. "Some share how *The Clone Wars* brought family members, who never had anything in common, together for the first time, or how the show got them through painful things like parents splitting up, or moving, illness, loss or even the death of a loved one. And all they want is to hear you say or write, 'May the Force be with you!' because it gives them joy and hope. This bond and their thankfulness are about all you can ask for as an actor."

In closing, for this very special *Bantha Tracks: Celebrating The Clone Wars Edition*, are these words from Supervising Director Dave Filoni. I can't imagine a better person to bring George Lucas's animated series to the screen, nor can I think of a better way to sum up the phenomenon that is Clone Wars fandom.

As always, no one says it better than Dave.



↑ "Star Wars fans are passionate. They know every detail of the galaxy far, far away, and the stories we at Lucasfilm tell mean a lot to them," says Filoni. "They do not take their continuity lightly and I would never ask them to do so. I understand where their questions, passion, and yes, even their anger comes from, and I have always respected that. I am after all a fan at heart. That is why I wanted to take this chance to tell the fans that their stories have meant a lot to us here at Lucasfilm. Not stories of Galactic Empires fighting Jedi Knights, but their real-life experiences related to their love of Star Wars. Their stories of traveling many, many miles to reach a convention or standing in line for months at a time to see one of the films. Stories of making lifelong friends, or even of getting married (sometimes by R2-D2 at a Celebration)."

"I have met kids who overcame struggles in their life because they were inspired by the Jedi, and I have met parents who have found a common ground with their children through a shared love of the Star Wars universe. I have met so many of you over the years and I am very thankful for that. I am thankful for your kind words, for your continuity challenges, and for the chance I get to bring you all that much closer to the Star Wars universe."

"I always thought the best compliment we got for making *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* was that people often said it was something that the whole family would sit down and watch together. That meant a lot to us, I know it meant a lot to George. So, thank you fans. Thank you for inspiring us, for caring enough to let us know when you loved something and even when you hated something. Know that we are working hard, and that, to us, the best part of any *Star Wars* story is when it is experienced by you the audience—because it is that experience that becomes a part of your own story."

"The Force will be with you, always."





MY YEARS IN THE CLONE ARMY

This edition of *Bantha Tracks* ended up differently from how it was originally imagined. A few months ago, I was emailing with *Insider* editor Jonathan Wilkins about what to do for this special edition of the magazine. We agreed that a *Bantha Tracks* covering the fans' love of the entire *Star Wars* saga—both looking back and looking ahead—would be a compelling way to go.

We are at a fascinating point in *Star Wars* history where we have six movies and a television series already in our DNA, while at the same time we look forward to new *Star Wars* movies and television. Jonathan wanted something with a sweeping feel, and we agreed that fan memories of what has come before, coupled with anticipation for the future, was a good direction.

As a result, I went on Twitter and asked for personal stories about love for *Star Wars*: love for movies, for particular movies, for *The Clone Wars*, for anything that evoked strong emotions which made fans love being part of the *Star Wars* experience.

Overwhelmingly—and I mean overwhelmingly—the responses I received were about *The Clone Wars*. Thus, this edition of *Bantha Tracks* would be all about *The Clone Wars*. I turned to the voice actors too, and to supervising director Dave Filoni, to see if they had anything to add about their love for the series. Their responses were immediate and enthusiastic, and as you have read, very personal.

While my role is tiny, I've been a part of the Clone Army since we showed the very first footage at *Star Wars Celebration IV* in 2007 in Los Angeles. The creators, artists and actors have been on the front lines of the series and the experience. My role is more like that communications person in the background, whom you see just for a second on the edge of the screen. Yet I still feel proud I was able to play a small part in something that has made a difference to so many people. I am honored to interact with the crew and actors and fans of the series.

As *The Clone Wars* evolved through the seasons, I loved getting the emails and art for *Bantha Tracks* from kids who loved the show and were teaching their parents how to be fans. I enjoyed hearing from adults and parents who loved the series and were sharing it with friends and with their kids. I particularly loved that the kids of my friends—friends who did not care for *Star Wars*—would want to talk with me about Anakin and Obi-Wan and show me their Clone Wars toys when I came over. Take that, Mom and Dad!

Here at Lucasfilm, we are working on a movie property that has been going on for decades, and looks to go on for decades to come. There is nothing else quite like *Star Wars* in the entertainment world.

We have a lot to look forward to. But at this juncture in the continuing *Star Wars* saga, it's good to pause and look back—to celebrate the Clones, and the army behind them.

Get in Tracks!
Mary Franklin, Editor, *Bantha Tracks*



BOUNTY HUNTERS



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HAN AND CHEWIE REUNITED?

As a member of the Rebel Legion, I portray the character of Han Solo. I was not going to miss an opportunity to finally get to meet Peter Mayhew and get my picture taken with him when he came to Planet Comicon in Kansas City back in 2013! I had heard what a wonderful person he is from my friends that had met him before. I am happy to report he was all that and more! He even tilted his head over and gave me a "Wookiee growl" when I rested my elbow on his shoulder for the photo!

A little later in the day, I was walking past the autograph table of Corey Dee Williams and he stopped what he was doing and flagged me over and asked if he could have his picture taken with me! He was such an incredibly nice and personable guy!

Thinking that the day couldn't get any better, I was proved wrong! I was lucky enough to be recruited, along with a few members of the 501st Legion and Mandalorian Mercs, to escort Ray Park from the panel he was participating in, back to his autograph table. On our way back, he was gracious enough to stop and pose for a few pictures with us.

To top it all off, the members of the 501st and Rebel Legions, the Mandalorian Mercs, and The Dark Empire costuming organizations worked together and were able to raise \$1,042 for the Peter Mayhew Foundation! —Steven Umholtz AKA "Corellian Scoundrel," Rebel Legion, Central Base



Ray Park strikes a familiar pose with his team of nerds!



Corey Dee Williams poses with Steven.



Peter Mayhew and Steven AKA Han Solo!

A DANISH ADVENTURE!

Oh, how I wish we had Star Wars Celebration in Denmark! Luckily, England is only a short flight away....

The biggest stars from Star Wars I have met, was probably at Collectormania 6 in 2004, where I was lucky enough to meet Carrie Fisher and Jeremy Bulloch. At the next Collectormania 7 I met my favorite Jedi, Nalini Krishan (Barriss Offee) in *Attack of the Clones* and Mike Quinn (Nien Nunb).—Marie Louise Geneser, Denmark



Marie Louise met Carrie Fisher...



...Jeremy Bulloch...



...Nalini Krishan...



...and Mike Quinn!

CARRIE IN CANADA

I drove a long distance to meet the wonderful Carrie Fisher at the Calgary Comic-Con. She was an absolute sweetheart and after finding out that I traveled 15 hours just to meet her, she hugged me... twice!—Jeremy Jeffrey, Winnipeg, Canada



Jeremy and Carrie Fisher Double hugger!

REBEL FRIENDS!

I attended Star Wars Weekends at Walt Disney World's Hollywood Studios in 2013. I have been an active member of the 501st Legion for nearly 8 years as a TIE fighter pilot. But recently, I decided to work on becoming a Rebel pilot, and I hope to join the Rebel Legion soon. While I was at SWW, I ran into Ashley Eckstein who was wearing Her Universe Rebel gear too!—John A. Cornejo, Miami Beach, Florida



John and Ashley Eckstein join the Rebellion!

CAN YOU GO ONE BETTER?

HAVE YOU MET EWAN MCGREGOR? MAYBE YOU'VE JOKED AROUND WITH JAMES EARL JONES OR EVEN CUDDLED UP TO PETER CUSHING? SEND PHOTOS, AND STORIES, OF YOUR ENCOUNTERS WITH THE STARS OF *STAR WARS TO: BOUNTY HUNTERS*. *STAR WARS INSIDER* VIA THE CONTACT DETAILS ON PAGE 3, OR EMAIL US AT STARWARSINSIDER@TITANEMAIL.COM

RED FIVE



JOE SCHREIBER'S FIVE FAVORITE STAR WARS DEMISES

Death has played a big part in author Joe Schreiber's Star Wars work, including the novels *Death Troopers*, *Red Harvest*, and *Darth Maul: Lockdown*. Who better to choose five fantastic Star Wars fatalities?

1

BEN KENOBI'S DEATH



Death is rarely forever in the *Star Wars* universe, and Obi-Wan, of course, comes back later in the trilogy—but to this day, the moment on the Death Star when he allows Vader to kill him is still devastating. A crucial part of the story, Ben's death actually means something, both narratively and metaphysically. He risks his life to disarm the tractor beam, and then engages Vader in combat knowing there's no way that he can possibly defeat the Sith Lord physically: "If you strike me down, I shall become more powerful than you can possibly imagine." That's a pretty revolutionary thought, and Kenobi makes good on it in a way that shapes the way we think about the Force, redemption, and resurrection in the *Star Wars* universe forever after.

2

GREEDO'S DEATH



In many ways, these few crucial seconds of *A New Hope* have become the Zapruder film of the *Star Wars* galaxy, where the question of who fired at whom has developed an incredible significance. In our heart of hearts, no matter what we might like to think, we all know that Han shot first. Contrary to popular belief and revisionist history, the fact that he already had his blaster out and was ready to handle business doesn't mean that he's a cold-blooded psychopath. It simply works as a very clear and economical defining moment for his character—that he's not only able to handle himself in a fight, but that he's quick and

canny enough that he wouldn't let a scoundrel like Greedo get the drop on him by drawing first. It also addresses the unrealistic detail that someone like Greedo—who really is a cold-blooded psychopath—would fire and miss his target at point-blank range. By personality alone, he's deadlier than Han, and Han knew it, which is why, when the time came, Han puts him down like a dog, without hesitation. Plus, the moment immediately afterwards, when Han tosses money to the bartender and says, "Sorry about the mess," is arguably the single coolest moment in the movie. At least I thought so when I was seven.

3

THE RANCOR'S DEATH



Okay, first of all, I love the way *Return of the Jedi* handled the rancor, and its battle with Luke has always been one of my favorite scenes from that movie (even in the old late-80s TV version where the bluescreen is so terribly obvious that I had to look away). Besides being excellently named, the rancor was originally conceived as "a cross between a bear and potato." How can you not love that? Also, the fact that [sound designer Ben Burtt] used a neighbor's dachshund dog for the noises that it makes is just awesome. But to me, having said all of that, the greatest thing that the rancor did was die. After crushing a femur bone in its jaws in an attempt to destroy Skywalker, this mighty beast finally dies under the crushing weight of a falling portcullis... and we're treated to a genuinely heart-wrenching moment where its keeper, played by Paul Brooke, breaks down in sobs, which were provided by a music arranger named Ernie Fosselius, who also wrote and directed the legendary parody *Hardware Wars*. Hey, at least it wasn't the dachshund.

4

NANTA'S DEATH



For years, the Ewok slain by AT-AT blaster fire on the forest moon of Endor was referred to simply by the *Tales from the Crypt*-esque name "Corpsey," primarily because... well, what else are you going to call a dead Ewok? Later, he was given a back-story and a special edition Toys "R" Us action figure, along with Romba, the Ewok who stayed behind with his fallen comrade. Again, it's actually the mourning that makes this death memorable. The iconic image of little Romba hunched over his friend, and the fact that *Jedi* takes a moment to acknowledge the finality of what's happened makes this, in a weird way, one of the trilogy's most touching throwaway moments.

5

VADER'S DEATH



Depending on how much you examine it, the final moments of Anakin Skywalker's life may or may not serve as a kind of fathoms-deep echo of Obi-Wan Kenobi's own death. Like Kenobi, Vader dies after achieving a greater good—throwing the Emperor down the Death Star's reactor shaft, to save his son. And in dying, Vader reveals the final underlying and transformative power that simply could not have emerged under any other circumstance. Just as Obi-Wan promised that being struck down would allow him to come back more powerful than ever, Vader—in extremis—finally removes the horrific mask that made him a dreadful vision of death and evil throughout the trilogy, exposing his human face underneath. Paradoxically fragile, this newly revealed humanity, ultimately, is what redeems him in our eyes, exposing that there is good left inside him after all. Born

out of utter desperation, the moment never would have come out if Vader hadn't, at that exact second, been facing certain death. When I think about it now, his demise bookends Obi-Wan's death so neatly that it makes me wish it had been planned out that way from the beginning, although I'm pretty sure it wasn't.

EXPANDED

Darth Maul: Lockdown is available now!

UNIVERSE



Interview by
Mark Newbold

THE SAGA CONTINUES....

NEXT ISSUE



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How *Star Wars* female fanbase led the way and changed the world!



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Our look at *Tales of the Jedi* turns to the dark side!

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ANSWERS

1. Anthony Daniels on being fitted for the C-3PO suit.
2. David Prowse on filming the iconic Vader vs. Kenobi duel.
3. Harrison Ford was apprehensive.
4. Jeremy Bulloch was the right fit for Boba Fett's armor.
5. Warwick Davis was a very lucky Ewok!
6. Ahmed Best on the upside of being Jar Jar Binks!
7. Ian McDiarmid gets inspired to play Palpatine.
8. Ewan McGregor suggests some recasting we pray we never see!
9. Dave Filoni has expanded thoughts.
10. Ray Park would go to great lengths to play Darth Maul again.

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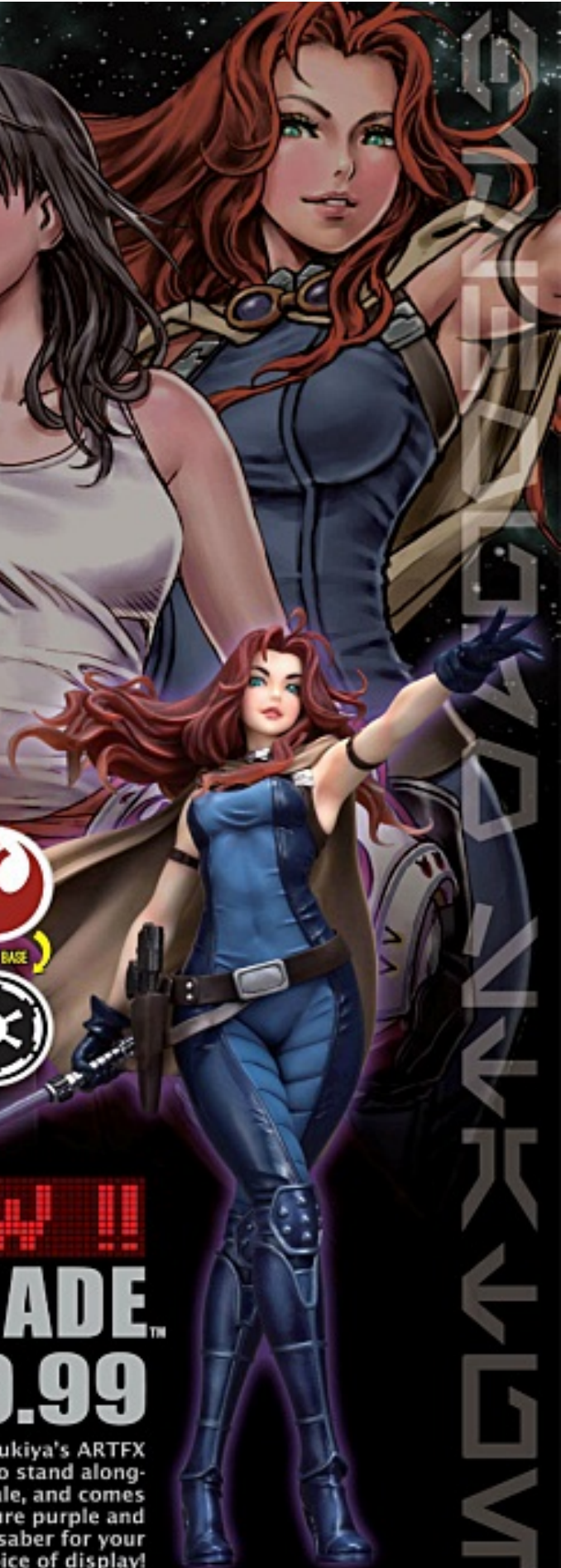
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